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BRITISH COLONIES  
IN  
NORTH AMERICA.



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CANADA.

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PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL LITERATURE AND EDUCATION  
APPOINTED BY THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING  
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## P R E F A C E.

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THE sketch of the History and Topography of Canada, her past and present condition, and future prospects, contained in the following pages, had its origin in the want of some such manual experienced by the writer when in the Colony, and expressed by him to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

As, therefore, it has been compiled principally as a hand-book for the emigrant and settler, it in some measure partakes of the utilitarian spirit that prevails in the western world, and has been arranged rather with a view to usefulness than amusement.

To those, however, already resident in the Colony, or about to become so, this will not perhaps prove its least recommendation, for that which is really useful cannot but be *interesting*; and it is presumed that it will



be found to contain all necessary information, whether general or local, historical or topographical: while to those who remain at home it is hoped it may not prove less acceptable as a concise account of a country already raised to an important position by the energies of the British race, and destined, doubtless, hereafter to occupy a prominent place in the affairs of the world. It needs but to be known to be appreciated; and the slight knowledge hitherto possessed by the many has operated very much to its disadvantage. If the information collected in this little Work shall tend to lighten the labours of any of its inhabitants, or soothe the anxieties of their friends at home—to give the former more confidence in its future prospects, or interest the latter more deeply in its welfare, the object of the Work will have been sufficiently attained.

C. G. N.

## CHAPTER I.

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### INTRODUCTION.

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#### OUTLINES OF DESCRIPTION.

THE importance to which the Anglo-Saxon Colonies in North America have risen, great as it already is, can be considered but a partial fulfilment of the sanguine anticipations of those through whose labours they were first established on her shores, or who fostered their infancy.

It is true, that the hope of obtaining, like the Spaniards in Mexico and South America, an abundant supply of the precious metals, and of discovering a direct passage to the Indies, incited the first colonists and explorers of the Northern Continent to their arduous undertakings, so that even Sir Walter Raleigh was carried away by these

fallacies of the age, which, indeed, were constantly strengthened by the reports of discoverers who feigned to have sailed from one sea to the other, or to have reached in their travels countries abounding in the much-desired riches; nor were these dreams entirely dispelled until the last generation by the discoveries of Vancouver.\* Yet, when the eastern coast of the Continent came to be better known, and its natural capabilities more justly estimated, its gigantic resources for commerce and agriculture began to be esteemed by its inhabitants more than a sufficient compensation for the loss of those phantom treasures which had allured their ancestors to their western home. The feelings arising from this are embodied in the often quoted verses of the philosophic Berkeley, published fifty years previous to the declaration of independence, by those now designated the United States.

“ There shall be sung another golden age,  
The rise of empires and of arts;  
The good and great inspiring epic rage,  
The wisest heads, the noblest hearts.

\* *Vide* Appendix A.

“ Not such as Europe breeds in her decay ;  
Such as she bred when fresh and young,  
When heavenly fame did animate her clay,  
By future poets shall be sung.

“ Westward the course of empire takes its way ;  
The four first acts already past,  
A fifth shall close the drama with the day,  
Time's noblest offspring is the last.”

And if we consider the rapid strides with which those countries have attained their present position among the nations of the world, we shall not esteem his expressions altogether hyperbolical.\*

We are not, perhaps, in a condition to institute a fair comparison between their progress and the advance of any others of which history informs us, the knowledge it affords on this subject being insufficient; nor can we, it may be, estimate the advantage these have derived from the rapid development of the sciences and diffusion of knowledge which have so conspicuously marked the present generation: still it may be asserted, without fear of contradiction, that the history of the world offers no

\* *Vide* Appendix B.







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minions, by a line extending from an indentation of the coast, in latitude  $54^{\circ} 40'$ , at 10 leagues distance from it to the 60th parallel, where it is carried along the 141st meridian of longitude west from Greenwich, to the Arctic Ocean.\*

2. The territories under the jurisdiction of the Hudson's Bay Company, extending from the Rocky Mountains on the west, to Hudson's Bay, and the great lakes. These are divided from the United States by a line carried along the 49th parallel from the Rocky Mountains to the southern extremity of the Lake of the Woods, through the adjacent waters and Rainy Lake, and thence down the channel of Pigeon River to Lake Superior.

\* The western coast, between lat.  $45^{\circ}$  and  $50^{\circ}$ , was taken possession of by Vancouver in 1792, in the name of King George III., and called after him New Georgia, as that part lying between parallels  $38^{\circ}$  and  $45^{\circ}$  north had been by Sir F. Drake, and which he termed New Albion; as, however, all the territory south of the  $49^{\circ}$  parallel has been conceded to the United States, and the country about Fraser's River has been long known as New Caledonia, that name is considered most applicable to the territory now remaining to Great Britain.—See *Vancouver's and Hakluyt's Voyages*.

3. The countries as yet imperfectly discovered, lying about Baffin's Bay, Davis's and Hudson's Straits, and the Islands of the Arctic Ocean. These have no northern limit, and extending to the Atlantic eastward, include some part of Greenland, while to the south they are limited by

4. The British Provinces situate about the great lakes, and the river and gulf of St. Lawrence: these are Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, and the island of Newfoundland. Their boundary on the south is continued from the mouth of Pigeon River, through the great lakes and river St. Lawrence to the lake of St. Francis, whence it is carried along the 45th parallel of N. L., and in a circuitous northern course by the rivers St. John and St. Croix, to Passamaquoddy, and the Bay of Fundy.

A glance at the map will show that, while the southern boundary, where it is not determined by the course of the waters, is purely arbitrary, and so each of these districts, the north eastern excepted, forms but a part of a natural district, the other part being in the

possession of the United States; yet that with respect to each other, the natural divisions are simple and strictly defined.

To the west the Rocky Mountains, having their root in the majestic Mount St. Elias, the south western limit of the Russian boundary, emerging from a confused series of mountain ridges, assume, in about latitude  $55^{\circ}$ , the appearance of a continuous chain, which runs through the whole length of North America, and, losing for a time its identity in the Mexican States, the narrow connecting link between the two continents is continued in a similar manner through the southern half of the New World.

The northern part of this chain, although in its vallies are found passes, by which a communication may be kept up with sufficient ease, forms a marked division between New Caledonia and the Hudson's Bay territories to the east of it; and even though it should hereafter be proved, as is not unlikely, that the country about the sources of the rivers Turnagain and Finlay, partakes more of the character of the latter than the former, this will only contract the northern portion of

the district, as the discovery of the sources of the Peel and the Rat rivers, tributaries of the Mackenzie, has already done, and show, as might be expected, that the main chain of the Rocky Mountains divides the waters falling into the Pacific, from those falling into Lake Winipeg and the Arctic Ocean; extending the one district westward, beyond the limits usually assigned to it by geographers, at the expense of the other.\* In truth it should seem to require little evidence to prove as a general rule, that the highest land will always be the watershed of any country; *i. e.* that part from which waters flow in any direction, to the lakes or seas of which they are tributaries; and consequently a knowledge of the waters is the best foundation for a knowledge of its general features.

\* Mr. Isbister found these rivers flowing through alluvial formation, and that in their neighbourhood the rocky Mountain Chain had lost its identity, and was reduced to inconsiderable elevations of from 600 to 700 feet, composed of sand and gravel, between which and the primitive rocks of that chain there appears to be a limestone range. The character of the scenery about these rivers is very similar to that about the Mackenzie.—See *Journal of Royal Geographical Society*, 1846.

By this test the limits of New Caledonia would be confined by a line drawn from Mount St. Elias, in a south-easterly direction, round the head waters of the Turnagain, Finlay, and Peace rivers, to that part of the Rocky Mountain chain, where the 54th parallel of latitude cuts the 120th meridian of longitude, (avoiding fractions,) from whence those mountains, assuming a more definite character, divide the eastern from the western waters of the continent.

In the same manner may be traced the limits of the next district.

Bounded on the west by the Rocky Mountains, it wants in other directions, such lofty bulwarks; its surface, comparatively flat and destitute of hills, is overspread with lakes and their tributary rivers: these will, however, upon inspection, be found to resolve themselves into two systems;—those which, by the Slave Lake and Mackenzie River, and the smaller rivers on the north coast, fall into the Arctic Ocean: and those which supply Lake Winipeg, and fall into Hudson's Bay; and being entirely distinct from those which belong to the great lakes

and tributaries of the St. Lawrence to the east, and the Missouri to the south, serve to indicate natural divisions of the country.

The third division, consisting probably for the most part of Islands, and to which the adjoining coast of Labrador may very properly be added, is kept sufficiently distinct by Simpson's Straits, the Gulf of Boothia, and the waters of Hudson's Bay; and the fourth is indicated by the course of the great chain of lakes, (the most remarkable feature of North America,) and their outlet, the river St. Lawrence, to which the Island of Newfoundland, lying within the mouth of the gulf formed by its waters, as well as Prince Edward's Island, the province of New Brunswick, and peninsula of Nova Scotia, its southern boundaries, naturally attach themselves.

The northern parts of this immense tract of country lying within the Arctic circle, extend their chilling influences even over the southern, so that the temperature in them is much colder than in the same latitude in Europe; both the mouth of the St. Lawrence and James's Bay, the southern extremity of

Hudson's Bay, though in the same latitude as the south of England, are locked up in ice during the winter, as are also the great part of the lakes lying still further south. This, however, does not extend to the western coast, where the navigation is open during the whole year.

It has been said, that this difference of temperature is in a great degree consequent on the course of the currents in the sea, which, originating generally in the cold northern regions, flow down the eastern shores of the continent, reducing the temperature of the countries which border them ; but heated by the vertical sun between the tropics, impart a more genial warmth to the western coasts by which they return to the place of their origin.

However this may be, the line of temperature seems to rise with a gentle inclination to the north-west in Europe and Asia as well as in America, though perhaps it is at present more evident in the latter.

The cold generated in this country by its proximity to the ice of the Arctic regions, kept as it is continually compacted for want

of open sea, does not however seriously interfere with vegetation; the greater part being clothed with a luxuriant growth of forest trees, which extend from the southern regions, to the west of Hudson's Bay, gradually diminishing in size, as far as the edge of the Arctic circle; indeed few countries are more generally fertile than the southern portion of these; nor are they wanting in anything requisite for the use of man, having abundant supplies of minerals and metals, not omitting coal. This, though only partially known of the northern and western districts, is well ascertained in the southern and eastern.

Forming part only of the lake district, to which equally belong those portions of the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, which border on them, they contain in themselves a regular geological series, from the primitive granite, gneiss, &c. to the later rocks, and coal. The latter now indispensable mineral, abounding in Michigan, is also found plentifully in New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island,



as also in Nova Scotia, in which districts are contained great mineral treasures.

But as the most remarkable feature of the country is its waters, so are these the great means of developing its resources, whether natural or artificial, and are therefore worthy of particular attention. They may be considered in two divisions:—external and internal.

If the British dominions in North America be considered with reference to the Atlantic, they will be found to possess all facilities requisite for commerce, even to a superabundance. From the Bay of Fundy on the south, with its tributary harbours of Passamaquoddy, the waters of which separate New Brunswick from the United States, St. John's, Cumberland Basin, the Bay of Mines, and Annapolis, to which, as yet, trade is for the most part confined, round the east coast of Nova Scotia, where that of Halifax is of sufficient importance to prevent the necessity of mentioning others, we pass to Cape Breton, with its innumerable havens *and inlets*, and the extraordinary arm of the

sea called Bras d'Or,\* which divides it into two parts, thence by Prince Edward's Island, having on the south Hillsborough Bay, and on the north Richmond Bay, and the harbours of Miramichi and Chaleurs, to Cape Gaspé. Here commences the entrance to the St. Lawrence, by which admission is at once gained to the heart of the country, and which has, especially on its north side, several promising ports;—and further north, round the coasts of Labrador, the deep indentation formed by the waters of Hudson's Bay, gives a sea-board and water communication to the greater part of the country; and if the navigation be, as yet, in the less frequented parts, difficult and dangerous, it is only because they are so, and just in the same proportion. What coast would be otherwise without lights, buoys or pilots, and but partially and imperfectly surveyed? Indeed if this

\* The Bras d'Or is about 50 miles long and 20 broad, with an average depth of 30 fathoms, everywhere secure for the navigation of large vessels, and abounding in coves and inlets, where they are now loaded with timber 40 miles from the ocean, and which "afford the benefit of inland navigation to almost every farm in the country."

presents some dangers and difficulties, they should be thought more than compensated by the abundance of harbours and natural facilities it affords.

But if the water communication on the east side be, as represented, excellent, it is equally so on the west. It is true, that the best part of the waters on that coast have been ceded to the Americans, but still sufficient harbourage remains for all commercial purposes. The Island, or, as they are now known to be, Islands of Quadra and Vancouver, afford many excellent harbours, both on the western coasts, by Nootka Sound, and on the eastern, which are closely connected by the channels which separate the Islands; while, to the north, Vancouver found many of great excellence, which has been since frequently tested by the fur-trading vessels; and although the tides are rapid and the channels of extreme depth, yet he bears willing testimony to their sufficiency for all the purposes of commerce and navigation.\*

\* The Island of Vancouver and Quadra was so named by the English navigator at the request of Senor Quadra, the Spanish commandant at Nootka. Its eastern coasts having been surveyed by the Spaniards, Vancouver copied

The harbours on the east coast admit the trade of central and southern America and the West Indies, as well as Europe, Africa and Western Asia; while those on the western must ultimately abound with the rich merchandize of eastern Asia and the Pacific.

To estimate rightly the value of the internal water communication of this country, it is necessary to consider it also in two relations :

1st. As to the harbours, connecting them with the interior, and,

2d. As to the connexion existing between the various systems of rivers and lakes, by which that communication is kept up;—but this, to be appreciated, must be extended beyond the limits of the countries under consideration, indeed over the whole of the northern continent, for otherwise all the varied produce of the southern states of the Union, Mexico, and California, would now,

their charts, from which it was concluded that the coast was continuous. Succeeding navigators have, however, ascertained that it is in most places covered by Islands, *small Archipelagos* of which lie recessed in deep sounds, *if indeed some of the channels do not penetrate entirely through.*

and hereafter as it increases in importance, be virtually excluded.

And first, the connexion between the harbours and the interior, so necessary to the development of the resources of the country, is not wanting.

The river St. John, which, with its tributaries, waters the greater part of New Brunswick, flows into the harbour of the same name, and is navigable to Fredericton, the seat of government; the St. Croix, which divides that province from the State of Maine, and several other smaller rivers, all navigable for some distance, empty themselves into Passamaquoddy Bay. The water communication between the Bay of Mines and Halifax is all but continuous.

The Bay of Miramichi has its tributary waters; that of Chaleurs stretches deeply into the land, and receives those of the Restigouche; while the many streams which unite with the St. Lawrence, all afford means of communication, of various degrees of facility, with the interior. Of these the most remarkable are the Saguenay and Ottawa, *the former having a channel of extreme*

depth for upwards of 60 miles, and the latter having afforded the means of connecting by a canal the great river with Lake Ontario.

But all these sink into insignificance before the unparalleled inland navigation, developed by those mighty lakes, from whence the St. Lawrence derives its vast volume of waters.

To estimate this by comparison,—it may be said to extend further on a direct line than from New Orleans to St. Louis, or the junction of the Missouri and Mississippi, on the latter of which rivers the navigation is increased to four times the distance, by its circuitous course; so that by this access is at once obtained as far into the interior, in about one quarter of the distance; to say nothing of the great extent of coast laid open by the length and breadth of the lakes,—and when to this the river St. Lawrence itself is added, it may be said with truth, that no inland navigation at present in use, or indeed that is known to exist, can be placed for one moment in comparison with it.\*

\* *The navigation of the Mississippi is constantly impeded by trees, &c., brought down by its current, when a*

Extending on a base of 650 miles, by a circuitous course for upwards of 1,000 miles, independent of Lake Michigan, which stretches southward for upwards of 300 more, they offer the benefits of water communication to a greater extent of country than can be found in any part of the known world within the same limits, which is greatly increased by the tributary waters of the numberless streams flowing into them. Nor will the countries round Hudson's Bay, the Arctic Ocean, or on the Western Coast, be found deficient in this particular when the necessities of commerce shall direct attention to them.

But if the connexion existing between the interior and the sea be found thus perfect, what shall we say of that which unites the various systems of inland navigation throughout the Continent? It must be confessed as remarkable as the other.

It is evident, upon the consideration of the  
its height; these have occasioned alterations of the channels at its mouth, and extended the lands about them far *into the sea*. On account of these impediments and its *rapid current it is chiefly navigated by steam-vessels—another point of inferiority.*

internal water communication, that North America is yet in the transition state, produced by the partial draining of the table lands and ranges of hills ; these latter are not of much consequence of themselves, except as indicating the watershed of the country. Of them, next to the Rocky Mountains, the most important is that which extends along the northern shore of the St. Lawrence, and northward of the great lakes, a branch of which stretches to the north-east through Labrador.

The whole extent of this range shows a gradual subsidence of the water level, and consequent gradual draining of the table lands, a circumstance in the world's history that may be traced in every country, but here is more particularly evidenced ; as it has not as yet proceeded far enough to separate, by any serious distance, the head waters of the rivers. This is probably owing, in a great measure, to the want of any very lofty ranges of hills, and, generally, of considerable elevation in the undulations of the ground.

*This, however, must not be understood as*



if the country had a flat appearance, for we measure eminences, for the most part, by the standard of the human body, and not by the relation they bear to the base on which they stand; so that, although speaking with reference to man, there are hills, and indeed the scenic effect of the country is often highly diversified, yet, if their height be compared with the extent of country to which they are related, or the waters of which they are the boundaries, it will appear extremely insignificant.

Consequent upon this inconsiderable elevation of the land dividing the waters of the country, is their general proximity and diffusion over its surface; so much so, that those flowing into the North Sea, Hudson's Bay, and Lake Superior, approach within a very few miles of each other, and those flowing into the North Sea within a few hundred yards of those falling into the Pacific; indeed, it is not without difficulty that their separate courses are distinguished on the map.

*Taking Lake Winipeg, and its system of waters, as a centre, we observe on every side*

rivers spreading in opposite directions, from the more elevated lands among which it is situated.

To the north, those of the Mackenzie and its tributaries; to the east, those connected with Hudson's Bay and the great lakes; to the south, the Missouri and its tributaries; thus uniting the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic with the Arctic Ocean. Nor is this all; for, separated as the territory west of the Rocky Mountains appears at first sight to be from that to the east, it will be seen, on examination, that their waters, as has been remarked, approach closely to each other; insomuch that the south branch of the Columbia is no less closely connected with the Missouri and its tributaries, the Yellowstone and Platte, which unite it to the Mississippi, than with the Rio Grande del Norte, which flows through the northern province of Mexico, and the Colorado, which empties itself into the Gulf of California; while the northern approaches closely to the tributaries of Lake Winipeg and the Mackenzie, as do also the more northerly waters of New Caledonia and those of Fraser's.

River; thus completing the union of whole with the Pacific.

It will thus appear, that of this *water* communication the British dominions in North America have their full share, and although the inhabitants of them are, by the late treaty with the United States, deprived of the facilities offered by the Columbia, yet Mackenzie's journey has demonstrated the possibility of finding a passage to the Pacific further north; so that, while they possess water communication between the Atlantic, Pacific, Hudson's Bay, and the Arctic Ocean, they derive great prospective advantages from that which exists to such perfection in the southern part of the continent, by which, under a commercial system of reciprocal advantages, they may have the produce of the warmer latitudes conveyed to them with ease and expedition; and by means of these natural thoroughfares, facilities are afforded for the colonization of the central portions of the country, which are in many respects peculiarly fitted for it.

*And though it be urged that a great  
of this is only available for canoes and*

it must be remembered, that these are of necessity the only vessels within the means of the first settlers, and that their passage opens the path into the wilderness at once, which could otherwise be trodden but by the slow process of road-making, while on the other hand it may be asserted with truth, that the greater part of it is now open for and navigated by large vessels. Canals have done much, and may do more, to complete what nature has left unfinished; and it is sufficient to point to the rapid spread of colonization over the more southern parts of North America, to convince the most sceptical of the immense value of this inland water communication.

It is also to be remembered, that this peculiar character of water, viz. rivers of moderate size, flowing through undulating country, swelling out frequently into lakes, and intersecting the whole by their numerous branches, offers each new settler the means of supplying his immediate wants, which no other could afford; the more rapid waters will *give power to work his saw and grist mills, and about the lakes and more moderately*

flowing streams, the rich "interval"\* is never wanting with its naturally luxuriant crop of grass, affording plentiful fodder for his cattle in winter, for the labour of cutting and preserving; nor is it less to be desired as the abode of abundance of game, from which his natural wants may be supplied, or as affording in winter a more practicable road than even in summer. It is the source of all his early comforts, as of his subsequent wealth—and that which ultimately subsides before the progress of cultivation will be long remembered with gratitude, as the origin of fertility and abundance. To sum up these advantages, it is in short, a country that has only one want—a want which has indeed been supplied with an extraordinary rapidity, but still utterly beneath its power of consumption, for, although the rifle of the settler has rung in the woods of the Columbia, and among the wilds of New Caledonia, and his axe and canoe have explored the paths by wood and water from the Atlantic to the

\* Interval, or intervale, low or alluvial land on the margins of rivers; so called in the New England States.—*Worcester's Dictionary*.—Vide Appendix C.

Pacific, yet have the pioneers of civilization far outstripped her—while she lingers over her yet unfinished work on the shores of the Atlantic. In reviewing this, we shall be struck, not so much with what has been, as with what remains to be done; and the remembrance of things foregone, so far from satisfying, should but act as a stimulus to further exertion, because it is written, the “earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea;” and whatever impediment the ambition or avarice of man may place in the way, the progress of colonization and civilization, and by consequence of religion, can never cease till that word be accomplished. But though, doubtless, the future destinies of this vast empire must be completed, by whom and in what manner may depend much upon ourselves.

From an early period these views of inland commerce and navigation have occupied the attention of men of enlarged minds, connected with the trade of the Canadas; foremost among whom stands Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who, from being the first to cross the continent to the Pacific Ocean, and being

perfectly conversant with the fur trade in all its branches, would of necessity have his attention much directed to the subject.

From the example of the Russians in Asia, he suggested the establishment of a communication between the opposite shores of the continent, to be carried on by means of the rivers and lakes of British North America. This has been in some sort completed, *i. e.* as far as the Pacific, by the Hudson's Bay Company, whose servants annually journey between Hudson's Bay and the river Columbia: it yet remains to bring back the merchandise of the east by the same route, which will not, in all probability, be accomplished till an English colony is established on the western coasts of North America, which, if only on account of the Canadas, is much to be desired.

But in these countries every thing should be considered with reference to the future; all should be looking forward, and if they reap not themselves the benefits of their foresight, they know at least they bequeath *them to their children*. A new country can *never be the place of rest*; man is not placed

there as in the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it, but to be the pioneer of civilization and religion, the advanced guard of the mighty army that is hereafter to bring the whole into subjection, and those who take up their abode in it must be content to receive their reward in proportion; and whether their labour be bodily or mental, whether it be bestowed on the soil or the inhabitants, the increase of wealth or advancement of knowledge, morality, or above all, religion, by which indeed alone can the others be obtained and secured, it should be sufficient to know, that however small the result of their endeavours may seem at present, it will not, if undertaken in dependence on the providence of God, seem of little importance to those who shall rise up after them and call them blessed.

Of this, sufficient evidence will appear in the sequel, but it may be noticed here as accounting for the more rapid spread of settlements towards the west in the United States than the British dominions, so often *remarked upon*.

*The former, with the fervid anticipation of*



youth, already extend in imagination their influence over the whole of North America, and in reaching forward to this shadowy dominion they are content to forget in some degree their own identity, and for its sake to renounce not a little of their own present comfort; while the latter, confining their desires within a smaller compass, achieve indeed a less considerable advance, but at a proportionately smaller sacrifice. How far the one has any advantage over the other, may be doubted, and can only be decided when the importance of the younger members of that commonwealth shall induce them to become their own legislators, and the seeds of disunion sown far and wide over the country by the so rapid dispersion of such different elements, entirely preventing their amalgamation, bear a plentiful harvest.

At present it is principally observable in their successful contests for an advantageous boundary along the whole line of their territories, and by hints and inuendos plentifully distributed in public speeches, newspapers, books, and even conversation, not *un-*  
*quently in a very entertaining man-*

when in a guide book we read—"Canada, a vast territory, belonging *at present* to Great Britain." Nor would it be worth remarking upon in this place if it were not likely to influence the new settler, who therefore requires this warning against it, as well as against the temptations held out to him on this account to locate in the Michigan territory, the valley of the Mississippi, or even the far west.

These, although tolerably suited for location by Americans, present a soil and climate, to say nothing of inhabitants and institutions, totally different from any thing to which natives of any part of the old country have ever been accustomed, while in the British dominions it is found by experience that they get "acclimated" in a very short time; and there nothing but want of capital can prevent the introduction of any of the scientific improvements of modern farming with profit to the speculator, in the more advanced districts; while in the western parts of the Union they would be entirely misplaced, and in the competition with the *rugged* and comparatively lawless settlers of

those regions, the advantages of education, and a residence in a country in a higher state of civilization, would be entirely lost.

The British North American colonies offer the labourer and artisan a sufficiency for the present, and establishment for the future; the small capitalist, whether farmer or trader, a larger and more certain return than can be hoped in the contention against those of greater wealth at home; and to all, what all desire, "property;" and if we add to this the security of English laws, the profits of English commerce, the protection of English arms, and, may it not be said, the teaching and offices of her Church,—what Englishman would go elsewhere to seek further advantages, which can only be obtained by the loss of some of not the least important of these, and the attainment of which must ever be in the highest degree problematical? Moreover, an inquiry into their history will convince us that their progress has been commensurate with their age, and that if it be carried on in the same ratio will leave nothing to be desired.

## CHAPTER II.

## DISCOVERY AND HISTORY.

THE genius and courage of Columbus having opened a new world to the enterprise of Europe, his example was speedily followed by other navigators, second only to himself in the importance of their discoveries.

Foremost among these, John Cabot and his son Sebastian, Italians in the service of Henry VII. of England, first essaying the dangers of the more northern seas, were rewarded by the discovery of Newfoundland, in 1497, which was named by them *Nova Vesta*; they examined the coast as far as  $67^{\circ} 50'$  N. latitude, and entered and explored some part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

It is probable that they also first entered the strait since known as Hudson's Strait, although Gaspar Cortereal was the first to land on the coast of Labrador, in 1499 or 1500. But, in 1506 and 1508, the French navigators Denys and Aubert traced the

coasts more particularly, and the value of the fisheries having become generally known, the number of European ships engaged in them nine years after amounted to fifty.

To the two Italian navigators already mentioned, Columbus and Cabot, was now to be added a third; for, in 1522, one by name Verazani, under the patronage of Francis the First of France, discovered much of the continent hitherto unknown, and taking possession of it for his sovereign, gave it the name of "Nouvelle France."

In 1535 Jacques Cartier, of St. Malo, discovered the river St. Lawrence, which he ascended to Hochelaga,\* a town of the native Indians, where he established a fort, which he named Mont Royal, where the city of Montreal now stands.

Cartier had been engaged in the cod fishery, and was therefore considered by Philippe Chabot, then admiral of France, a fit person to lead such an expedition. His choice was in a great measure justified by the result. He sailed on his first expedition *the 20th of April, 1534*, with "two ships of

\* Pronounced by the Hurons, Hoh-el-läga.

threescore tons apiece burthen, and sixty well appointed men in each." Having reached Newfoundland in twenty days, and passed through the Straits of Belleisle, he crossed the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to a bay which he named "Des Chaleurs," on account of the great heat of the summer, and from thence proceeded to "Gaspé" or "Gachepé" Bay, when having taken possession of the country by erecting a cross, and persuaded two of the natives to return with him, he left it and arrived in France in the September following.

The next year he obtained a new commission, and sailed with three vessels, on the 19th May, 1535. Having been separated by a storm, the fleet was united again in July on the coast of Newfoundland, and proceeding westward, came to a "goodly great gulf, full of islands, passages and entrances, towards what wind soever you please to bend." It was the 10th of August, and being the festival of St. Lawrence, he gave it the name of that saint, which has since been applied *not only to the whole gulf but the river as well.*

He entered the Saguenay, and proceeded thence up the river until he arrived at the Isle of Orleans, named by him, from the luxuriance of the vegetation generally, and especially of the vines, the Isle of Bacchus. Here he was visited by Donnacona, pompously styled by him the "Lord of Canada," whose residence was at Stadacona, a fort situated on the site of the present city of Quebec. Leaving his vessels in the safe harbour of Port de St. Croix, on the river St. Charles, and having learned that there existed up the river a town of much greater importance, he determined, regardless of the distance and lateness of the season, to attempt to reach it. For this purpose he took the smallest of his vessels, the Hermerillon, and two long boats, with provisions and ammunition.

He was everywhere well received and assisted by the natives. The chief of the district of Hochelai, now Richelieu, visited him, and gave him one of his own children, about seven years old. After some difficulties, incident to their ignorance of the *best channel*, they arrived, on the 2nd of *October*, about six miles below the town

The natives received them with every demonstration of joy, and Cartier distributed presents among them.

The next day, passing through large fields of Indian corn, he entered Hochelaga, for so the town was named. He found it circular in form, composed of three rows of palisades or pickets, well joined together; it contained fifty cabins or lodges, each fifty feet long by fifteen broad, formed of wood covered with bark.

The fort had but one entrance; and, as well as the lodges, was surrounded by galleries, for the discharge of missiles. The lodges formed a circle, in the centre of which the fire was kindled.\*

From the town Cartier proceeded to the mountain in its vicinity; he found the ground tilled all around, and giving evidence of its fertility. The splendid panorama of thirty leagues radius, which lay expanded beneath him as he stood on the eastern summit, excited his admiration and gratified his ambition. He named the hill Mont Royal, in honour of the king his master;

\* The description of this town accords closely with those given of the Indian towns on the north-west coast



a name which has been applied to the city and island as well, and latterly altered into Montreal; when, does not exactly appear, but it retained its original termination until 1690.

On his return to St. Croix, he was in all probability indebted to the Indians for his preservation from the rigours of the winter; and here, incited as it is said by fear, but much more probably by the desire to carry back with him to France some evidence of his success, he seized his former friend Donnacona, with some other Indians, and sailed with them to France the following spring. The nation generally were disappointed with the result of his voyage; their expectations having been excited by the riches the Spaniards had amassed in the South, nothing but the precious metals could satisfy them. The government, however, thought differently, and associated with Cartier, in a fresh commission, François de la Roque, lord of Roberval, who thus became the first viceroy of Canada; but who, not being prepared to sail so soon as Cartier, *followed him the next spring.*

*Cartier had five vessels under his command*

and the marquis followed in three large ships, with two hundred persons and several gentlemen of quality; but soon the bad effects of Cartier's evil policy the year before became apparent, for, on hearing that Donnacona was dead, the natives, before so cordial in their friendship, began to show aversion from any intercourse with the French.

Cartier's further proceedings in Canada are unimportant; he proceeded to the rapids above Hochelaga, and built two forts, but, the viceroy not having arrived, determined to return to France; they, however, met on the coast of Newfoundland, but no intreaties would induce Cartier to return to Canada. He died shortly after in France, as it is said, of chagrin at his ill success.

Roberval, however, proceeded to the settlement, and having enlarged its fortifications, wintered there. In the spring he explored the district of Saguenay, and returned to France; where, being employed in the wars against the emperor, he was unable to take any concern in the affairs of the colony, until 1549, when, accompanied by his brother, a soldier of much merit, as well as a consider

able number of persons of note, he set sail, but was never after heard of, and it is therefore concluded that they all perished.

This serious loss threw such a damp over the affairs of the colony, that fifty years elapsed before any further attempt was made to reestablish the settlement there.

Trade, however, began to be renewed with the natives about 1581, and furs and walrus-teeth became lucrative articles of commerce, insomuch that, in 1583, three vessels, one of which was 150 tons burden, were engaged in prosecuting this traffic, and in 1591 a fleet was fitted out at St. Malo, to procure ivory in the St. Lawrence. It was not till 1598 that another viceroy was appointed in the person of the Marquis de la Roche. His commission authorised him to grant lands "en fief et seigneurie" as rewards for military service. We see in this the origin of much of the land-tenure in Lower Canada.

He landed settlers on Sable Island, than which no place can be conceived less suitable, — as, indeed, the result showed; for, out of forty, all died but twelve, who, after six years, returned to France. They had resigned

themselves to despair, when the vessel arrived to take them away. He, however, examined the coasts of Acadia, or, as it is now called, Nova Scotia, and, returning to France, died soon after.

From its extensive schemes of colonization, the attention of Government now became diverted to the lucrative traffic in furs and ivory before mentioned; and in 1600 a charter was granted to M. Chauvin, a naval officer, who, associating with him M. Pontgravé, a skilful navigator, made two successful voyages, one to Tadousac, near the mouth of the Saguenay, for many years the centre of the fur trade, and the other to the Three Rivers. He, however, dying in 1603, the patent was renewed in favour of Pierre du Guast, Sieur de Monts, and extended over the territories between the parallels of north latitude 40 and 54. He confined his attention principally to trade; and, having associated with him M. de Chatte, Governor of Dieppe, in 1607, Samuel Champlain, a naval officer, who had been with Pontgravé in 1603, was sent out as his lieutenant, with

instructions to establish a settlement above Tadousac.

After due examination, he fixed on a spot near the Indian village of Stadacona, before mentioned; and on the 3d of July, 1608, laid the foundation of the present city of Quebec, one hundred and sixteen years after the discovery of America by Columbus, seventy-three after the first voyage of Cartier, and one after the foundation of Jamestown, in Virginia.

The arrangements made by Champlain for the establishment of this youthful colony seem to have been dictated by an enlarged and correct judgment. Stores and tents were built, land cleared and planted; and under his government the settlement flourished. It had been well if the wisdom which directed its domestic arrangements had presided over its political relations. The Algonquins, Hurons, and other tribes, being at war with the Iroquois, Champlain was induced to take part in the quarrel, and not only to supply the Hurons with fire-arms, but to assist them *with his personal aid*. This laid the founda-

tion of those Indian wars which were ever after to prove a scourge to the country.

In the spring of 1609 Champlain ascended the river, and discovered the delightful country about the lake that has ever since borne his name. Covered with primeval forests, intersected by rivers, here narrowed into rapids, or breaking over the rocks in cascades, and there swelling into lakes studded with verdant islets, it is not too much to say that it yields to no country in America, if anywhere, for luxuriant and picturesque beauty.

In the autumn he went back to France; but returning the following year, he took on him again the management of the colony, while Pontgravé was sent with him to devote himself entirely to the improvement of the fur trade. It is remarked that they made the voyage from Harfleur to Tadousac in eighteen days.

In 1612-14, the affairs of Canada were transferred to a company of merchants in Rouen, St. Malo, and Rochelle. It proved by no means so active an agent for the *good of the province* as might have been *expected*. Champlain, however, never ceased

to urge the necessity of introducing more settlers; and as the number of these increased, his attention became directed to the spiritual wants of the province; and through his instrumentality four Recollet\* priests were induced to leave France and take up their residence in Canada.

Champlain visited France several times to promote the interests of the colony, and brought over his family to reside with him there. He rebuilt with stone the fort he had erected on the site of the Castle of St. Lewis, at Quebec, in 1624, and fortified the place in consequence of his frequent wars with the Indians; and the company not having paid sufficient attention to the necessities of the colony, and more especially to its due protection against them, at his solicitation the charter was transferred to two brothers, named De Caen.

\* Recollet, the appellation of the more rigid order of Friars minor of St. Francis, established 1530, approved by Clement VII. 1531, introduced into France 1592. They were so called as being spiritually "revived," and remarkable for their missionary labours, extending not only to Canada and Louisiana, but Mexico and Madagascar, as well as the Corsairs of Algiers.—*Vide Moreri's Dictionary.*

Champlain returning again to France, Henri de Levy, Duke de Ventadour, having purchased the viceroyalty of his uncle the Duke de Montmorenci, and coinciding in his views of the spiritual wants of the colony, and being anxiously desirous of converting the Indians to the Roman Catholic faith, on Champlain's return sent with him three Jesuit priests and two lay brothers, men of exemplary character, to accomplish this object, which being in some measure liable to be interfered with by the brothers De Caen, who were Protestants, and they having engaged more in the fur trade than in efforts at colonization, their privileges were revoked, and a charter granted to a company composed of men of property and credit, the formation of which was encouraged by Cardinal Richelieu. It was founded in 1627, under the title of the Company of One Hundred Partners or Associates, and engaged—

1st. To transport emigrants, artificers and farmers, to Quebec; to lodge and feed them during three years, and ultimately to locate *them on farms* to a certain extent cleared, *and furnish them with wheat for sowing.*



2d. That those emigrants should be native Frenchmen, and Catholics; and that no stranger or heretic should be introduced into the country. And

3d. To support three priests in each settlement during the first fifteen years of its existence.

The objects contemplated by the Association were stated to be—

1st. The conversion of the Indians to the Roman Catholic faith.

2d. The extension of the fur trade, and commerce generally.

3d. The discovery of a passage to China.

This latter, it should be remembered, was never absent from the minds of those who sought to establish settlements in America.

The privileges and authority of the company were extended over the whole of New France and Florida, with power to appoint judges, build fortresses, cast cannon, confer titles, and generally to take such steps as might seem expedient for the protection of the colony and the extension of commerce, for *which purpose* it had the entire monopoly of *the fur trade*.

The scheme is said to have been a favourite one with Richelieu, and it was expected to render New France the most powerful colony in America. Its progress, however, met with a temporary obstruction.

War having been declared between England and France, Charles the First gave a commission to David Kertk, or Kirk, and his kinsmen, French refugees, to conquer Canada. He sailed accordingly in 1628 for that purpose, and having captured the fleet destined for the new colony, summoned the fortress to surrender; but not having sufficient means to compel it, he returned to England; and the following year, he having captured another fleet conveying supplies to Canada, his brothers Lewis and Thomas appeared before Quebec, and the inhabitants, threatened on the one hand by starvation, and on the other by an invasion of the Indians, gladly surrendered to the British arms, 130 years before the memorable conquest of the city by Wolfe. On this, though Champlain and the Jesuits returned to France, *far the greater part of the colonists preferred remaining*; but in 1632, Charles I., by the

treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye, resigning to France all his title to Canada and Nova Scotia, Champlain returned to Quebec as viceroy, with extended powers and a considerable accession to the numbers of the colonists. He died, however, two years afterwards, universally regretted; and celebrated no less as a historian, traveller, seaman, and mathematician, than for his able management of the affairs of the colony. He was succeeded by M. Montmagny.

The exertions of the priests and Jesuits for the spread of the Roman Catholic faith now became most energetic, and were actively seconded by the inhabitants. A College was founded at Quebec by René Rohault, a priest, and the Ursuline convent by Madame de la Peltrie; the Hotel Dieu at Sillery was also erected at this time; and the necessity of occupying the Island of Montreal, if the propagation of the faith among the Indians was to be attempted, soon became apparent. They, however, met but little encouragement from the Company, not singularly *more attentive* to its commercial interests, for *it made full use of its privileges and monopoly.*

A society, thirty-five in number, was therefore formed in France, in 1640, to colonize that island; and M. de Maisonneuve and several families proceeded to take possession, with authority as governor; this he did the year following, with such ceremonies as it was supposed would give the natives a lofty idea of the Christian religion; a chapel was built, and the island consecrated by the superior of the Jesuits, on the 15th of August, the day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

The village then built on the site of the Indian town Hochelaga, and called Ville Marie, the entire expedition being under the patronage of the Virgin, styled by them "Queen of Angels," was the origin of the city of Montreal. In 1644, it was however transferred to the order of St. Sulpice, in Paris, and by it, subsequently, to the seminary of the same order at Montreal, in whose possession it still remains.

The affairs of the colony progressed but slowly, the wars with the Indians constantly retarding them, and this sad consequence of Champlain's single false step led

to a proposition as mischievous. In 1644 M. Daillebont proposed an alliance with the British settlements in New England, against the Indians, which was rejected on account of their amicable relations with the Mohaw tribe.

The next year a proposition of a less questionable nature was made by that colony viz. that peace should be maintained between them, even when the parent State were at war; this, however, the Canadian rejected.

The Iroquois continued their wars with the other tribes; massacring the Huron and exterminating the Indians of Lal Erie; and the state of the colony brought down on the governors the rebuke of the French monarch; until, in 1663, the Baron d'Avengeour, who had been appointed to that office, had sufficient influence to get an enquiry instituted, which ended in the resignation by the Company of their privilege and the erection of the colony into a royal government, to which M. de Mesy was first *appointed*.

*On his arrival at Quebec, he put in e*

cution a royal edict; appointing a sovereign council for the government of the province. It was to consist of seven members, including the Governor, the Bishop, and the Intendant.

A Bishop, Francis de Laval, abbot of Montigny, had been appointed three years before

Louis XIV, having granted to the West India Company all the foreign territories belonging to the French crown, in 1666, M. de Tracy, their governor-general, arrived in Canada, built three forts on the Chambley, and made successful incursions among the Mohawks; but the monopoly of the fur trade enjoyed by the Company, being exceedingly irksome to the colonists, they were granted the privilege of trading in furs, subject to a payment of one-fourth of all beaver.

The wars with the Iroquois were fostered by the jealousy existing between the Canadians and British colonists. The French governor, De la Barré, entered into a treaty with them, after a not very successful inroad into their territory; but this was not lasting: M. Denonville attempting to renew it

without consulting the wishes of the Hurons, who had so long been in league with the French, led to a tragedy that affords an apt illustration of the state of the colony and manners of the time.

Kondearouk, chief of the Michillimakinac Hurons, better known in Canadian history by the name of "Le Rat," determining in consequence to put an end to the negotiation, and learning that the governor was at Cataraqui, where now the town of Kingston stands, awaiting the arrival of the ambassador and hostages, lay with a chosen band in ambush, killed some, and made the others prisoners. For this he pleaded the orders of the French commander; but, releasing all his prisoners except one, he proceeded to Michilimakinac, and so represented the affair to the commandant there, as to cause him to be put to death.

When this was done he released an old Iroquois, who had been for some time in captivity, charging him, on his return, to *inform* his countrymen of the treatment they *were to expect* from the French, who, while

pretending to negotiate with them, were really compassing their destruction.

This diabolical deception had the desired effect. The Iroquois seized with avidity the pretext afforded by it, to break off the treaty, and Le Rat attacking Montreal by surprise, massacred 1,000 colonists, and destroyed all the houses, crops, and cattle of the island.

The Indian war, thus renewed, and supposed by the Canadians to have been so at the instigation of the New Englanders, was the signal for war between the Provinces. M. de Frontenac marched to Senecady, and revenged the misfortunes of Montreal by the massacre of its inhabitants. On the other hand, Sir William Phipps sailed to attack Quebec; but finding the French prepared, returned to Boston. But the details of such warfare can seldom be either pleasant or profitable; and whatever excuse can be found for the Indians, we can only blush at the imitation of their atrocities by men calling themselves civilized, and *professing Christianity*. *Traits of individual heroism are indeed to be found on all sides*



but they are usually such as result from mere animal courage; and when was that ever found wanting in time of war?

M. de Callières, who succeeded Frontenac, made peace with the Iroquois independently of the British colonists; and his successor devoted his attention to the destruction of their interest and influence with the Indian tribes. War, however, still continued between the colonies, till it was terminated by the treaty of Utrecht, which left the French in undisputed possession of Canada.

The fur trade, which had been always the great source of wealth to the French colonists, seems to have been singularly adapted to the development of their energies: they extended their trading posts in all directions; and later governors built forts to protect their operations.

It was through the prosecution of this trade that the greater part of the interior was made known. But, in 1678, Robert Cavalier de la Salle, a native of Rouen and *pupil of the Jesuits*, having been long employed by the Canadian government in

negotiation with the Indians, and exploration, and being commandant and proprietor of Fort Frontenac or Cataragui, went to France, to make proposals to the government of Louis XIV. to descend the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico, and there to establish a settlement, from whence they might harrass the Spaniards, and prosecute if possible conquests in that country.

Marquette and Joliet had, in 1673, navigated that river as far south as the Arkansas, and had found "genial climes, that have almost no winter but rains, beyond the bounds of the Huron and Algonquin languages, to the vicinity of the Gulf of Mexico, and to tribes of Indians that had obtained arms by traffic with the Spaniards or with Virginia."

La Salle received the desired commission, and was fortunate enough to associate with him the Cavalier Henri de Tonty, a soldier of fortune, whose assistance was subsequently of the first importance, and who performed every service required of him with the greatest alacrity, and most devoted courage.

Whatever may be thought of the objects of this expedition, the patience and courage displayed by these brave men cannot be contemplated without admiration; and turning from the details of the savage warfare recorded in the history of those times, the mind dwells with satisfaction upon their labours which gave the Illinois and Louisiana to France, and extended the boundaries of its North American provinces, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

The expedition left Quebec in September 1678, and being joined by the Recollet Fathers, Gabriel Louis Hennepin, and Zenobe Membré, proceeded to the Falls of Niagara, above which they built a vessel, and set sail across Lake Erie, 17th August, 1679. They sailed through the lake which separates it from Lake Huron, named by them St. Clair, after the saint to whom the day on which they entered it was dedicated, and landing at the Miamis, since called St. Joseph's river, sent the vessel back to Niagara, and crossing to the Illinois, on the 1st of January, 1680, reached Lake Pimiteouy, *now termed Peoria*. From hence Father

Hennepin was sent on a mission to the Sioux, and here his connexion with La Salle ended. The account of the expedition which he published cannot, therefore, be depended upon for a correct narrative of events south of the Illinois.

In 1681 they returned to Montreal, from whence, starting in the month of August the same year, having again reached the Mississippi on the 16th Feb. 1682, by way of the Illinois, with a party of twenty-three Frenchmen, and eighteen Indians, some women and children; following the course of the river, they came to the sea, on the 7th April; and took formal possession of the country, in the name of the king of France, calling it, in honour of him, "Louisiana."

La Salle remained some time in the Illinois, and subsequently returning to France, conducted an expedition to the Gulf of Mexico, where he established a fort; but not long afterwards was murdered by some of his own men, and the fort was destroyed by the Spaniards.

*In 1697, the French established themselves again at the mouth of the Mississippi, unde*

the illustrious Canadian Lemoyne d'Iberville, of the family of the Baron de Longueil; who, like La Salle, having been long engaged in colonial warfare and expeditions into the Indian country, proved himself admirably adapted for it. He was joined at the mouth of the river by De Tonty, with whom he proceeded a hundred leagues up the river, through the lakes named by him Maurepas and Pontchartrain. He made four voyages from France to the Gulf of Mexico, as De Tonty did several down the Mississippi, and nothing can exceed the determined boldness and indomitable energy which marked the French discoveries in the Illinois and Louisiana; had the same qualities been displayed by those subsequently concerned in their preservation, the whole of that immense and fertile valley might now have been in their possession, as well as Canada; and the United States, (if ever separated from Great Britain,) been confined to the regions east of the Alleghanies.

It was, however, otherwise decreed in the *course of Providence*.

*The success of the English fur traders*

provoked offensive hostilities on the part of the French, and thus commenced the war which ended in the conquest of Canada, a result probably much facilitated by the internal dissensions and weakness of the colony, incident to the rapacities and profligacy of the intendant, M. Bigot, whose bills were consequently dishonoured by the French Government, by which a loss ensued to the Canadians of 400,000*l*.

In 1755, General Braddock was defeated in an attempt on the French frontiers, from his want of precaution, but the army brought off by the afterwards so justly celebrated General Washington; and he, being joined by the provincial troops under Governor Shirley and General Johnson, repulsed the French army under Baron Dieskaw, at Lake George, and drove it back to Crown Point.

The following year the Marquis de Montcalm arrived from France at the head of a powerful army, and having reduced Fort George, suffered 2,000 of its inhabitants and garrison to be massacred by the Indians, *in the face of his own army, while marching out after the capitulation without the means*

of defence ; an iniquitous action, the remembrance of which nothing can ever efface, and which, by exciting, to the highest degree, the feelings of the British, served materially to hasten the conquest of Canada.

In 1759, France being fully occupied in her European wars, and the hitherto dormant energies of the British nation having been roused by the heroic patriotism of Chatham, it was determined to attack Canada in three points, and utterly extinguish French dominion in North America. To General James Wolfe was assigned the attack of Quebec by sea, to Sir W. Johnson the reduction of Fort Niagara, while General Amherst was to proceed against the fortresses at Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and in the event of success, a junction was to be effected at Montreal. The result of the first is familiar to every Briton.

Wolfe, with 8,000 men, landed in June on the Island of Orleans. To him was opposed Montcalm, with an army of 9,800, and a reserve of 2,200 men, besides the garrison of *Quebec*.

*His first attempt at Montmorenci was un*

successful, but having with the greatest boldness planned and achieved the ascent of the Heights of Abraham, he defeated the army of the French the day following, the 13th of September, on the plain above, in a decisive victory, in which the leaders of both armies lost their lives. Their memories are united in a monument raised to them by a late governor of Canada. The capitulation of Quebec followed, and the other expeditions having been equally successful, the conquest of the whole country was speedily accomplished. It is admitted on all hands, to the honour of the conquerors, that their valour and conduct in war were only exceeded by their moderation and generosity in victory.

By the treaty of Paris in 1763, the whole of the French dominions in North America were surrendered to Great Britain.

Undoubtedly this proved a blessing to the Canadian colonists, and as such they acknowledged it at the time, and have continued to do, by their loyalty, on every occasion, until within the last few years. Formerly they *had been at the arbitrary disposition of their governors*; now established laws were dub-



enforced, while their trade was increased by their connexion with the the greatest maritime nation in the world, and their domestic energies by the accession of English emigrants and English capital.

Until 1774, the laws of England were in force by royal proclamation, but in that year the first act of Parliament relating to Canada was passed, by which authority was invested for the control of the province in a governor, aided by a council of not less than seventeen, and not exceeding twenty-three persons, who had power to frame laws and levy taxes for local purposes. By it English criminal law was preserved, but it was ordained that in all matters of controversy relative to property and civil rights, resort should be had to the rule and decision of the laws of Canada. The British colonies in North America being then in rebellion, it has been considered that this Act, in all human probability, saved Canada to the British crown. The loyalty of the province was further confirmed by the restoration to *the Roman Catholic* clergy, of the power of *enforcing* payment of tithes, which, since th

conquest, had been left optional; this, when the power of that body is rightly estimated, will not be thought to have had a trifling effect in inducing such a result. The following year, 1775, the declaration of the independence of the New England Colonies, since called the United States, was published. The Canadians had been invited to send delegates to the Congress at Philadelphia, and on their refusal the invasion of the country was immediately proposed. Success followed the first operations, Chambley, St. John's, and Longeuil, falling into the hands of General Montgomery, who, in November, took possession of Montreal, which had previously resisted an attack of the partisan leader, Ethan Allen.

Another body under General Arnold, after penetrating the woods between the Kenebec and Chaudière rivers, in an extraordinary march of thirty-four days, joined Montgomery before Quebec, but failed in an attack made on the city by night, in which Montgomery was killed. This attack was made *on the Prescott gate, under cover of a furious snow-storm.* The American troops

got crowded together in the winding road leading from the lower to the upper town, and the confused noise of their advance betrayed them to the sentinel; the guard of British troops and American militia opened a deadly fire on the Americans, who, under Montgomery, rushed forward with ardour; but the path was commanded by artillery, which was served with unremitting energy and precision till every other sound ceased; none were left to tell the tale of carnage, but, in the morning, every trace of it was effaced by the snow which had fallen during the night. The sun glanced brightly over its pure and spotless surface, and knew not that it was the "winding-sheet" of the brave.

The numbers opposed to each other were nearly equal, being about 1,500, but in the spring that of the besieging army was raised to 8,000: reinforcements, however, arriving from England before the end of June, the whole province was evacuated by the Americans.

*In 1783, Canada contained 113,000 inhabitants, exclusive of 10,000 loyalists,*

who had located in the upper part of it, to preserve their allegiance. About a century previous, in 1685, the population amounted only to 10,000, of which 3,000 only were capable of bearing arms.

In 1790 the province was divided by Act of Parliament, giving to each part a legislature, consisting of a Governor, or his representative, a House of Assembly and Legislative Council. The first parliament of the Lower Province was opened two years after, under Lieutenant Governor Clarke; Mr. A. Panet was elected Speaker. It consisted of thirty-nine knights, eight citizens, and three burgesses, in all fifty members.

The constitution thus given to Canada enabled the colonists to apply themselves to local improvements of all kinds, but the unsettled state of the world consequent on the French Revolution, and of these colonies in particular, from the daily increasing probability of war with the United States, in some measure retarded the progress of them.

The union of feeling existing between *those two countries on political matters, and the desire felt equally by both to deprive*

England of the Canadas; by the French, as being colonized by their own countrymen, and by Americans, from their ambition, originating at the birth of their commonwealth, and existing in full force up to the present time, to let no European power have one foot of land in that continent, induced both to send political emissaries to instruct orally the more ignorant among the colonists, in the doctrines of liberty and equality; but their loyalty, confirmed by the recent Acts of the imperial Parliament, was not to be so shaken, and the local authorities took effectual means to expel the intruders.

These feelings prompted the United States to declare hostilities against Great Britain in 1812, when the war in Europe was exhausting all her means of offence, and when, on this account, as well as from internal dissensions between the Executive and Local Government, the Canadas were supposed to be particularly exposed to the attack of an enemy.

The whole force then in Canada amounted *to only 4,000 men*, but such were the exertions of the Legislature, that in less than a

month, the lower province was prepared for defence.

In July, General Hull entered Upper Canada with an American army, but hearing of resources at Detroit and Michilimackinac, retired; and General Brock, governor of Upper Canada, having attacked him on the 16th of August, brought the whole of his army prisoners into Montreal, within two months from the breaking out of the war.

By November, however, the enemy had assembled in force on the Niagara frontier; they crossed into Upper Canada, and were met and completely defeated at Queens-town by Brock, who died of the wounds he received in the engagement. A monument has been erected to his memory near the field of battle.

Other engagements followed with various success, and in January 1813, the American General Winchester was taken at Detroit, by General Proctor, with five hundred other prisoners; but the British failed in an attack upon Ogdensburgh. On the 27th of *April the Americans landed at York, and burnt the town; and in May the whole*

Niagara frontier was in their possession; but on the 6th of June, they were defeated by Lieut. Col. Harvey at Burlington heights, driven back to Fort George, and the Niagara frontier restored to its integrity. In the interior, General Proctor had captured another body of about five hundred Americans on the Miamis river.

Sir George Prevost failed in an attack upon Sackett's harbour, but on the 3rd of June, Lieut. Col. Taylor captured two vessels at Isle aux Noir; and in July, Black Rock and the barracks at Plattsburgh were destroyed by the British troops. On the 10th of September the entire British force on Lake Erie under Captain Barclay having been taken by the American Commodore Perry, and General Proctor having suffered a partial defeat at Detroit, the British were obliged to retreat to Burlington heights.

Lower Canada now became the theatre of war, and Montreal was threatened with a double invasion. General Hampton, with an army of seven thousand men, entered the *province* by the Chateauguay, on the banks of which he was met, defeated, and obliged

to retire to Plattsburgh, by the provincial Militia under Lieut. Colonel de Salaberry. General Wilkinson did not commence his descent till November, on the 11th of which month, General Boyd having been attacked at Chrystler's farm by Col. Morrison, with about eight hundred men, and driven to their boats, the whole army retreated by Salmon river to Plattsburgh and Sackett's harbour, and before the close of the season the Americans had deserted their own frontier and burnt Newark, while the British had taken Niagara and destroyed Black Rock and Buffalo.

In March 1814, the Americans under Wilkinson again entered lower Canada, but were defeated at Lacolle by Major Hancock, and retired; and General Brown, in July, having crossed into the upper province, captured Fort Erie: the Niagara frontier was during that and the following month the scene of several encounters between that General and Generals Drummond and Riall, in which success upon the whole favoured the American arms, but reinforcements arriving strengthened the British.



The close of the war was marked by a great but inglorious and most unsuccessful effort on the part of the British. Sir George Prevost, with an army of 11,000 men, entered the United States and attacked Plattsburgh on the 11th of September, but though it was defended by only 1,500 regulars and some militia, he was repulsed, and retreated with considerable loss. At the same time the British flotilla on Lake Champlain, was defeated by Commodore Macdonough.

The whole military conduct of Sir George Prevost has been severely commented on.

In November, notwithstanding their temporary success, the Americans had evacuated every post occupied by them in Canada, and several of their own forts and stations fell into the hands of the British; the command of the Lakes was also obtained, and large reinforcements confirmed these advantages to the colonists; but on the 24th of December a treaty of peace was signed at Ghent, and hostile operations entirely ceased.

*The history of the Colonies after the peace had been proclaimed may be passed*

over briefly;\* the disputes between the rival fur trading companies, the Hudson's Bay and North Western, will be noticed in another place; and it may be sufficient to state that for the next twenty-two years the elements of discord arising out of the division of the Colonies, and the evil seeds sown by the American and French revolutionists, as well as the jealousy resulting from the growing influence of the British inhabitants on the minds of the French Canadians, added to the difficulties consequent on bad financial legislation, gradually developed themselves with more and more strength, until, in the summer and fall of 1837, associations were formed for the purpose of overthrowing the government. The tricoloured flag and American eagle were displayed, and the malcontents openly placed under military discipline. These hostile demonstrations were confined to Lower Canada, and principally to the neighbourhood of Montreal, at St. Hyacinth, on the river Yamaska, and about St. Charles and St. Denis, on the river Richelieu, or St. John, both of which

\* *Vide Appendix D.*

streams flow into the St. Lawrence, the one above, and the other into the Lake St. Peter. The Richelieu being the outlet of Lake Champlain, and the Yamaska having its rise near the borders of the state of Vermont, the "habitans" residing on them, of course, lie particularly open to American influence.

On the 23d of October, a great meeting took place at St. Charles, which was attended by M. L. J. Papineau, the Speaker of the house of Assembly, and twelve more of its members; all allegiance was discarded, the cap of liberty raised, and an oath administered to be faithful to the revolutionary principles of which it was considered emblematical; and on the same day a meeting of the loyal inhabitants was convened to preserve the peace of the province, and the "connexion happily existing between it and the United Kingdom." On the one hand, bands of armed men paraded the disturbed districts, spreading terror and consternation on all sides; on the other, a gradual concentration of militia, loyal volunteers, and *military from the upper province and Nova Scotia*, while the Attorney General came

down from Québec to take legal measures against certain foreign military officers supposed to be instigators of the rebellion: of these we are bound to say that none were discovered, yet sufficient evidence was found to justify the apprehension of such interference, if not on the part of European nations, certainly by the Americans.

It was on the 5th of November, at Montreal, that the two parties first came into collision, but the military having been called out peace was restored. This outburst of popular feeling in the city was but the prelude to more serious demonstrations in the country; so that on the 10th, Sir John Colborne, commander of the forces, removed his head quarters from Sorel to Montreal, and established outposts in the neighbourhood; but two of the leaders being arrested under warrants of high treason, were rescued by the insurgents.

This partial success gave them fresh courage, and became the signal of war. The greater part of the district about St. Hyacinth was in arms, and T. S. Brown had collected a force on the Richelieu, and

Papineau with O'Callaghan and Wolfred Nelson were in the neighbourhood. In consequence Colonel Gore was ordered on St. Denis, and Colonel Wetherall on St. Charles; the first expedition signally failed, but Colonel Wetherall, although he found a stockade erected and defended by two guns, after displaying his force in the hope of inducing a surrender, stormed, carried, and burned the works. Colonel Gore afterwards marched again to St. Denis, which he found deserted, and thence to St. Hyacinth.

The insurgents had retreated towards Vermont, showing from whence they looked for sympathy and assistance, but were met and defeated by the loyal inhabitants of the border country of Mississqui: this restored order in the south.

The rising there is not, however, to be considered as isolated, but as part of a general insurrection which had been planned, and the object of which was to obtain possession of Montreal, and consequently the whole province; but there Sir John Colborne had established his head quarters, and having subdued them in the south, proceeded,

without delay, against those in the north, who had assembled in great force at St. Eustache, St. Benoit, and St. Scholastique, in the country of the Lake of the Two Mountains, at the entrance of the Ottawa. A strong body of regulars, supported by militia and volunteers, was directed against them with complete success. Dr. Chenier, one of the leaders, was killed; and the church at St. Eustache, as well as that at Benoit, together with many houses, were destroyed by the excited loyalists, many of whom had been driven from their homes by the insurgents. Such excesses are much to be regretted, but it had before been shown how little they regarded the lives and property of others.

A tragical event occurred in the early part of the contest, that sufficiently proved this: Lieutenant Weir, having been sent to Sorel with a despatch to the officer in command, did not reach that place, in consequence of the badness of the roads, until after the departure of Colonel Gore; taking a fresh calèche, he hastened after the troops, but arrived at St. Denis before them by a diffe-

rent road ; there he was made prisoner, and being pinioned, was sent forward to St. Charles, but on the road was barbarously murdered. His body was found in the Richelieu on the second advance of the troops to St. Denis, and interred at Montreal with military honours, followed to the grave by nearly the whole of the population of the city.

During the absence of the troops in the country of the Lake of the Two Mountains, a force had been assembled at La Chine. Colonel Maitland's battalion of volunteers immediately marched against them from Montreal, but they did not await their approach ; and, for the time, order was restored to the province.

The upper province had her share of troubles ; the "sympathies," so called, of perturbed spirits in the United States, induced them to invade it, to draw off, probably, the attention of the loyal inhabitants, and prevent assistance being given to the lower province, to which the regular troops had *already been sent*. Taking advantage of this, *a party hastened to attack Toronto before*

the militia could assemble, but found the Governor, Sir Francis Head, prepared to receive them; and Sir Allan Mac Nab, Speaker of the House of Assembly, having brought the men of Gore to his assistance by water, they quickly fled, and the loyal militia, flocking in from all quarters, restored the internal peace of the upper province.

But another body soon assembled at Navy Island, above the falls of Niagara, under the command of Rensellaer van Rensellaer, a self-styled general, and were joined by between three and four hundred men from the United States and Canada, the latter, however, being principally Americans who had located there. The militia succeeded in preventing their further progress, without any engagement; but a steam-boat, called the *Caroline*, having been seen plying between Navy Island and Schlosser, on the American shore, for which there could have been no object but to render assistance to the pirates (for such, in every sense of the term, they must be considered), was, during *the night*, cut out, burnt, and floated down *the river* by the Canadians—a beacon of



assurance to them, and a warning to all who would tamper with the liberty or loyalty of Britons,—until she disappeared over the falls of Niagara.

It is disputed whether the seizure was defensible, and some among the Americans yet call loudly for compensation; but, without entering upon the question of her character or cargo, the simple facts above stated sufficiently vindicate the colonists from the charges made against them.

In the summer and autumn of 1838 an unusual run on the banks was the prelude to another insurrection; the lenient measures adopted with respect to the prisoners taken in the last, having prevented the salutary fear their seizure would otherwise have induced.

This was marked principally by attacks on the houses of the loyal inhabitants, who were most cruelly treated, so that some even died of their wounds.

At this time a remarkable incident occurred, illustrative of the effect of the Christian religion on the hearts and conduct of *its converts*. The Indians of Chawanaga *were assembled* at morning service on Sun-

day the 4th of November, when a party of insurgents having surrounded the church, the Indians immediately sallied out, and the whole were made prisoners by them to the number of sixty-four, and marched unhurt into Montreal.

The steamer, Henry Brougham, was taken possession of by the insurgents at Beauharnois, and all the passengers were secured by them, but were rescued soon after.

Dr. Cote, with 400 men, made an attack at Lacolle on the loyalists, but was signally defeated, as was Dr. Nelson, in his advance on Odell-town, where he attacked 200 volunteers, commanded by Colonel Taylor. This small force taking refuge in the church, defended it for two hours and a half against 1,000 of their assailants, who retreated, with the loss of fifty killed and many wounded.

These were the principal events of the ten days' insurrection of 1838. How much they were excited by enemies beyond the borders, may be judged by the continued descents made by *them*, in which they exercised most *atrocious cruelties*, setting fire to the houses

of the loyalists, destroying the produce of their farms, and exposing themselves, their wives and children, to the inclemencies of the nights of a Canadian winter. Doubtless the government of the States did not assist them, and the better-disposed part of the community would have restrained them; but such actions cannot be controlled, except by a powerful executive, and, where republican ideas of liberty and equality are concerned, that of the United States is powerless.

Several of the rebels taken in these contests were executed, with one exception confessing the justice of their fate, and lamenting that they had followed the bad advice of interested and designing men.

The causes of these events are to be found, as has been suggested, in the disunion of the provinces, and consequent superiority given to the French element in the lower, as well as the incitements offered from the United States, if not from other countries; and, perhaps, they may be traced, in no small degree, to those very concessions by which, in all human probability, the Canadas were preserved to the British crown, during the

first American war. So short-sighted and imperfect are human endeavours, unless dictated solely by justice and truth, and the consideration of the community of interests which exists among all men, and which can be maintained only by the exercise of Christian charity and brotherly love.

The result has been the union of the colonies under one government, an act which, by uniting the interests, political and commercial, of both, as well as opening the lower province to British interests, promises to exercise a beneficial influence over the future destinies of Canada.\*

\* For List of Governors, vide Appendix D.

## CHAPTER III.

## TOPOGRAPHY—CANADA EAST.

THAT part of British North America formerly comprising the province, and still commonly known by the name of Lower Canada, extending from the river Ottawa, by the northern boundary of the United States and province of New Brunswick to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, was originally divided into five districts for judicial purposes, having in them superior courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction, which are limited in the inferior to civil causes with power of appeal.

The superior are Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal, having the seats of jurisdiction at the towns of the same name.

The inferior are St. Francis and Gaspé, having their courts at Sherbrooke and New Carlisle.

These are again subdivided into counties, seignories, fiefs, and townships.

The district of Quebec is separated from that of Gaspé, which contains only the counties of Gaspé and Bonaventure, by their boundaries, commencing at Cape Chat. It is divided from those of Three Rivers and St. Francis, by the boundary lines of the counties of Sherbrooke, Drummond, and Nicolet on the south, and Portneuf on the north, where it is met by the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company, but extends to Point Sablon on the coast of Labrador.

The district of St. Francis is included in that of the Three Rivers, and is in the form of a parallelogram, more than fifty miles in width from east to west, and above one hundred from north to south.

The entire district of Three Rivers extends from the Hudson's Bay Company's territories on the north, by the western boundaries of the counties Portneuf, Lotbiniere, and Megantic, the river Chaudiere, lake Megantic, and Arnold's river, to the southern boundary of the province, and is separated from that of Montreal by the

north-eastern boundaries of the counties of Stanstead, Shefford, St. Hyacinth, and Richelieu, on the south of the river St. Lawrence, and on the north by that of the county of St. Maurice; while the district of Montreal extends from the forty-fifth parallel of latitude on the south, and is divided from Upper Canada by the Ottawa river: but it is evident that these divisions are of a purely arbitrary nature, and in no respect indicative of the character of the country.

It has been already remarked that a range of hills runs from the great lakes to the northward of the river St. Lawrence. Commencing in the lower province at Grenville, on the Ottawa, they run at a varying distance of from fifteen to forty miles from the river, until they strike its banks at Cape Torment, thirty miles below Quebec; from hence the north shore of the river assumes a mountainous character. On the south side the highlands recede to a greater distance. Viewed from the north these have a distinct outline, but on the south the table elevation of the country prevents it from appearing mountainous. Connected with

the Green Mountains in the state of Vermont, and by them with the Alleghanies, they take a semicircular north-western course round the head waters of the Chaudiere, and about the sources of the St. John's river, diverge into two spurs, one running nearly parallel to the shores of the St. Lawrence, through the centre of the country; the other taking a more northerly course, extends along the river to its mouth, at a distance of from thirteen to thirty miles, until it "subsides on its banks and confines its waters."

It appears from this that the St. Lawrence from its union with the Ottawa flows through an extensive valley, wider on the south than the north side, but gradually narrowing until, below Quebec, it is confined to little more than the breadth of its waters. The districts of Lower Canada, therefore, divide themselves naturally into three parts, the fertile western valley, the table lands and highland district by which it is surrounded, and the narrow slip of cultivated country in the south, prolonged into the district of Gaspé. If we turn from the course of the hills to those of the rivers, we shall



observe the Ottawa, and the tributaries of the St. Lawrence on the north, expanding themselves in radii from its mouth to Quebec, their principal waters flowing through the valley before spoken of.

The Ottawa, as already specified, forms the old boundary of Lower Canada, but it must also be considered as the great highway into the interior towards the north and north-west, and a future line of communication with Hudson's Bay, as well as Lake Huron. Having its sources above one hundred miles to the north of Lake Temiscaming, it issues from it at more than three hundred and fifty miles from its junction with that river, flowing through a country in every respect well adapted for cultivation, but as yet for the most part in a state of nature, and little known to any but fur traders and timber contractors; a trading port for the former is established on the shores of the lake.

At the Allumettes the river expands and is divided into two channels by islands, below which it forms the Lake des Allumettes; here the land begins to be cultivated, and affords every proof of fertility. Lower down

the river is again divided by the large island of Calumet, in length twenty and in breadth seven miles. The stream is broken by a ridge of rugged mountains into rapids and cascades, and although they vary only from six to ten feet, the scenery is of an extremely wild and romantic character. Below this it is singularly diversified by numerous islands clothed with luxuriant foliage, whose fertile beauties contrast picturesquely with the banks of white marble confining the river, which soon expands again into the Lake des Chats.

The Ottawa is esteemed for the softness of its waters; its calms are particularly glassy and beautiful. The shores of this lake in some parts form deep indentations, and its surface is studded with islands, while both being well wooded, the whole presents a scene of soft and sweet beauty, peculiar indeed to the country, but of which this is a specimen that can hardly be surpassed. In this so congenial a locality, where the more beautiful and fertile features of their own land present themselves without the harsher and more desolate, a Scottish chieftain has taken up his abode among emigrants of his own clan.

Here the waters of the Madawaska join those of the Ottawa, and below the lake from the rapids des Chats, their united waters dart rapidly along amidst a labyrinth of islands, until they precipitate themselves over rocks about twenty feet in height, forming the falls of the same name: here are seen fifteen or sixteen cascades stretching in a curved line across the river divided by wooded islets.

Six miles lower down, Lake Chaudiere, exceeding Lake des Chats in magnitude, but less diversified in its scenery, opens to the view. It is eighteen miles long by seventy-five broad. Here the shores to the north of the river begin to increase in elevation, while to the south they are still higher, and from the foot of the lake the river is again obstructed by rapids to the Chaudiere falls at Wright's Village, in the township of Hull, where its waters are divided, and rushing headlong over the rugged limestone rock, form cascades of unusual beauty. Above, the river is five hundred yards wide and studded with verdant islets; below, the chord of one of the principal falls is two hundred and twelve feet, its height sixty.

The usual peculiarities of limestone, perpendicular fissures, caverns and subterranean channels, are not wanting here, and the whole presents a scene worthy the admiration both of the lover of the picturesque and the man of science, and which is diversified and heightened by the chain of the Union bridges. The truss bridge over the broadest channel was constructed from a temporary suspension bridge of rope, and a handsome one of iron now supersedes it. Bouchette commemorates the courage of Lady Dalhousie as the first female who ventured over it.

Below the falls the river is navigable for steam-boats for sixty miles to Grenville, where there is a military establishment, a population of above two thousand, and a considerable breadth of land in cultivation. Here, as has been remarked, the chain of hills enters Lower Canada, which bounding the valley of the St. Lawrence, forms its northern bank below Quebec; and here, granite crops out from below the limestone. Black-lead is found in the district.

Below Grenville is the long Sault, an im-

petuous rapid, around which a canal has been cut, and from thence to Point Fortune the river is much broken; but then expanding, it forms the Lake of the Two Mountains, and flows into the St. Lawrence below the cascades. It is, however, remarkable that their waters do not unite until they reach the Three Rivers, ninety miles below Montreal, the black waters of the Ottawa being distinguishable from the bluish green of the St. Lawrence.

The valley of the Ottawa presents a decided superiority to the country along the St. Lawrence below Montreal, its frontage being considerably south of Quebec, and its average latitude  $45^{\circ} 30' N$ . It is watered by several fine rivers, tributaries to the main stream, generally navigable, at least for canoes, and having their rise at great distances from it, frequently in lakes, affording advantageous internal water communication; its surface is undulating and covered with a heavy growth of wood, generally indicating a rich and fertile soil: it may be esteemed the best district of Lower Canada north of the St. Lawrence.

Below the junction of the Ottawa, the St. Lawrence is divided into three principal channels by two islands, at the north Isle Jesus, at the south the island of Montreal, on which stands the capital of the province.

The north shore from the Ottawa to the Three Rivers at the mouth of the St. Maurice consists, as has been remarked, of a narrow slip of about fifteen to twenty miles in breadth at the base of the table and high lands: it is watered by several rivers, along the banks of which settlements have very generally been made, but it labours under the disadvantages of a light sandy soil and want of internal communication.

The table land to the north presents an example of the facilities of water communication to be found only in these countries; a glance at the map will show a chain of lakes, in some places forty fathoms deep, at the head waters of the St. Maurice and Aux Lievres rivers, by which an immediate communication might be opened between Hull, at the head of the steam-boat navigation of the Ottawa and Three Rivers, and inclosing a tract of 11,500 geographical miles. On

account of the quality of the land, it is not however probable that this is of much importance in an agricultural point of view.

Isle Jesus, and the islet Bizard, with the lands adjacent to them, are, though scarcely above the level of the river, covered with fertile soil, and generally under good cultivation; the former is a seignory belonging to the bishop and ecclesiastics of the seminary of Quebec; it is twenty-one miles in length, and six at its greatest breadth. Isle Perrot, to the south-west of Montreal, is rocky, with light sandy soil, and but partially cultivated; the principal value of this and the other islands results from their position as the centre of the water as well as land communication of the province.

The island of Montreal is of a triangular shape, thirty-two miles long by ten and a half broad, and forms a county of itself; it is separated by the river Des Prairies from Isle Jesus; it was wholly the property of the seminary of St. Sulpice, in the city of Montreal. Its surface is generally level, but there is one remarkable isolated elevation called "*the Mountain,*" besides one or two smaller ridges.

Taken as a whole, its fertility can scarcely be exceeded, and it is watered by several streams and rivulets of sufficient power to turn saw and grist mills.

The shores, from the city of Montreal to the eastward, are from fifteen to twenty feet above the level of the river, but in the opposite direction, towards La Chine, they are low, and here a canal has been cut to afford a direct communication with the city, and avoid the difficult rapids of St. Louis.

The city of Montreal stands on the south side of the island, in latitude  $45^{\circ} 31'$  N, and longitude  $73^{\circ} 34'$  W. ; its form is a prolonged square, covering about 1,020 acres of ground; its situation fits it to be, in every respect, the first city of the province.

It is divided into the upper and lower town, the streets are generally wide, the houses are built of greyish stone covered with sheet iron or tin;\* it possesses some comparatively fine buildings, among which the Roman Catholic cathedral, St. Mary's epi-

\* From the dryness of the atmosphere the tin retains its freshness for a long time, and glitters brilliantly in the sunbeams.



scopal church, the Customs and Court-houses, St. Anne's market, and the seminary of St. Sulpice, are, perhaps, most worthy of mention.

The cathedral stands in the Place d'Armes, an open space of considerable size; it is, probably, the largest church in British North America; it is a gothic structure, but entirely destitute of ornament; it consists of a nave and side aisles, 255 feet in length, and 134 in breadth. It was intended to have six towers, those at the west end were to be 220 feet in height; between them there is a triple arcaded porch, and battlemented screen above, pierced with windows to correspond to the arches.

Montreal has several schools, besides the Roman Catholic places of education; among which is a National School, founded in 1816, with an average attendance of above 200, and Sunday-schools of all the numerous denominations whose places of worship are to be found in the city; water and gas works, a hospital, mechanics' institute, and many religious *and benevolent* institutions. In the market-place has been erected a monument to the

memory of Lord Nelson ; it is a Doric column, with a statue of the hero on the top, and historical bas-reliefs on the pedestal.

The shore of the St. Lawrence has, since 1832, when Montreal was made a port of entry, been furnished with a line of wharfs stretching toward the Lachine canal, and affording every facility for commercial purposes.

The population of Montreal was stated in the census of 1831, as 31,783 ; in 1840 it was computed at above 35,000. Since it has become the seat of the government and legislature its population has probably exceeded 60,000.

The St. Maurice river, already mentioned, is the next river of importance to the Ottawa ; it drains an extent of country from twenty to one hundred miles in breadth, in a course of about one hundred and fifty miles in a direct line, or of about 8,400 square miles. It rises in Lake Oskelanaio ; the upper part of its course is much broken by falls and rapids, but it is practicable for boats thirty-eight leagues, to La Tuque, although with *seven portages.*

Its banks are generally high, and covered with majestic trees. The land near the mouth is light and sandy; at the falls of La Gabelle limestone predominates, but at those of La Grais, six leagues from Three Rivers, and for some distance beyond, it presents a favourable appearance, to the portage Aux Hêtres, one league above; from whence it assumes a more sterile character, becomes rugged and broken, until, opposite the river Batis-can, the precipitous banks rise for more than two hundred, and, further still, three hundred feet in height. In this district are the stupendous falls of the Shewenagan, where the river, divided into two channels, rushes over a perpendicular rock one hundred and fifty feet high, and at the base forces its united waters through a channel of only thirty feet in breadth.

The town of Three Rivers is situated in the seigniory of St. Marguerite, at the mouth of the river St. Maurice. The third in importance in Lower Canada, in point of antiquity it is the second, having been *built before* Montreal, as an emporium for *the fur trade*, in which the latter city,

very shortly after its foundation, very far outstripped it.

It derives its name from the division of the river into three channels, by two islands which lie in its mouth. It does not contain above 4,000 souls, but is well situated for trade, having depth of water for ships of large tonnage, close to the wharfs. It is a depôt for British goods especially. Its principal buildings are the Ursuline convent, containing a parochial church and hospital, the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, court-house, and gaol. There is also a ruined monastery of Recollets.

Below the St. Maurice, the only important river on the north bank, is the Saguenay. Between them Quebec occupies an intermediate position. The tract of country they inclose, in length 190 miles, contains about 70,000 souls, occupying an average depth of land of about three leagues from the mouth of the river.

The country to the westward of Quebec is by far the most populous. It is watered by the powerful tributary streams of the Jacques Cartier, Portneuf, St. Anne's, and

Batiscan; but they are of little use except to turn saw and grist mills, and to bring down lumber, their mouths affording sufficient shelter for the shipping employed in that trade.

The soil of this district is generally rich, and not confined to the banks of the rivers. The scenery is picturesque in the extreme; the fertile vallies and streams, which flow through them, being backed to the westward by a bold mountain range, whose purple peaks glow beneath the beams of the setting sun. It is also sufficiently provided with roads.

Quebec was the capital not only of Lower Canada, but of the whole British dominions in North America. There is, perhaps, no city in the world, whose appearance is more striking, and next to Gibraltar, it is probably, by the united efforts of nature and art, the strongest fortress in the world.

It is built on a promontory on the north-west side of the St. Lawrence, formed by the river St. Charles, the extremity of which is called Cape Diamond, and rises 345 feet above the level of the river. It is composed of grey granite, containing numerous crystals.

of quartz, from whence it has been supposed its name is derived. The front of the line of fortifications is 1837 yards; their circuit within this, about two miles and three quarters: forty acres of which is allotted to military works.

From the summit of the cape there is an easy and gradual descent of 115 feet to the castle of St. Louis and the Grand Battery, which crowns the perpendicular rock of 200 feet, overlooking the lower town. This height is continued nearly round the town, which lies embosomed as in an amphitheatre, as far as the entrance called Palace-gate, where it sinks to the Coteau St. Genevieve, 100 feet above the river, and continues its course at nearly the same elevation, forming the boundary of the valley of the St. Charles, that river forming, for some distance, but a very small angle with the St. Lawrence and the valley under Cape Rouge, with which this line is connected, and which is seen rising above the general level like an island in the water.

The population of the upper and lower towns, besides the suburbs, may be computed

at 35,000. Its principal public edifices are the castle of St. Louis, Hôtel Dieu, convent of the Ursulines, two cathedrals, Church of England and Roman Catholic, besides sufficient military and civil edifices. The castle of St. Louis, forming the governor's residence, and seated on the edge of the precipice, is, from situation and structure, a most striking object; it is 162 feet long, by forty-five broad, and three stories high, though it appears more lofty. There are wings at each extremity, and it forms part of the old fortress of St. Louis, which covered four acres of ground in the form of a parallelogram, with curtain and bastions. Here are two large gardens, and a public promenade between them, in one of which was erected, by Lord Dalhousie, the monument to Wolfe and Montcalm, already mentioned. It consists of a solid rectangular column of grey stone, gradually tapering from the base to the apex, of sixty-five feet in height: the inscription commemorates their union in their death and fame, as well as in their monument.

The Protestant cathedral is a handsome building, with a lofty and elegant spire, and

has a very conspicuous and striking appearance from a considerable distance.

The Roman Catholic cathedral is a larger building, remarkable for solidity of appearance. It has only one spire at the angle of the front, the corresponding one never having been built, which weakens the effect of the original design. Near it is the seminary, now the residence of the bishop and principal clergy.

The Bishop's Palace, formerly the residence of the Roman Catholic bishop, was afterwards occupied by the Legislative Council, and an annuity was granted to him in lieu of it.

The collection of arms and military stores is very considerable, Quebec forming the arsenal to the British provinces on the main land; a railway, on an inclined plane, has been constructed, 500 feet in length, on the face of a rugged cliff, 345 feet in perpendicular height from the wharfs below, for their conveyance to the citadel, where arms for 20,000 men are kept in a state of complete fitness for immediate use.

Here also is a literary and historical



society, formed under the auspices of Lord Dalhousie, in 1824. It has a library, museum, and collection of paintings, all worthy of notice, with rooms for reading, lectures, and meetings of the members.

The situation of the upper town, or city, occasions the streets to be steep, irregular, and often narrow, but art has of late sufficiently remedied its natural inconveniences. Besides the buildings already mentioned it has a market place, 250 by 165 feet, a Place d'Arms, forming an agreeable promenade, and an esplanade, where the troops and militia are reviewed, of 273 yards long, by a breadth of from 80 to 120.

The lower town, standing at the foot of the rock, has been for the most part built upon wharfs, which, stretching into the river, have been added to as the increase of commerce required, so that streets and houses now occupy the place where not only boats, but ships of burden, used formerly to ride at anchor. Here are extensive stores and docks, from whence vessels of large tonnage are constantly launched.

The principal buildings are the Bank,

containing the Insurance Office and Quebec Library, the best collection in the provinces, the Exchange, and Custom-house.

The two extremities of the lower town, Bréhauts wharf, near Présdeville, and Sault au Matelot, were the scenes of the repulses of the American generals Montgomery and Arnold, in which the former was killed.

The suburbs of St. John's and St. Roch extend, the one on the irregular ground of the Coteau St. Genevieve, and the other from thence to the river St. Charles, on the bank of which river the general hospital stands. It was founded in 1693, by M. St. Vallier, bishop of Quebec, and governed by a superior and forty-four nuns. The front, which is regular, is 228 feet in length. The whole building forms nearly a square.

Quebec is the centre of the steam navigation of the British North American dominions; steam-boats running from thence to Montreal in about thirty-five hours, as well as to Halifax, from which place there is a constant communication with New Brunswick, by Digby and Annapolis, as well as with England, Boston, and New York.

There is a regular ferry between the city and Point Levi on the opposite side, and a bridge over the St. Charles. When the ice is making in the river, the passage is exceedingly difficult, and would be as dangerous, but for the courage, self-possession, and experience of the boatmen. In winter the river is sometimes frozen across, and as soon as the surface is sufficiently solid, a road is laid out under the inspection of the Grand Voyer of the district. This has not, however, happened so frequently of late; but the North Channel, between the island of Orleans and the main, forms the road by which the Quebec market is supplied from that fruitful spot, where, on that account, the produce is reserved until this period of the year.

The scenery about Quebec is not only majestic, but picturesque in the extreme, and cannot fail to make a strong impression on the memory of all who pass it on their way to the upper districts.

The island of Orleans, or St. Lawrent, *situated* immediately below the deep indentation formed between Quebec and Beau-

port, by the river of the same name and the St. Charles, is nineteen miles long by five and a half broad. Its western extremity is only four miles from Cape Diamond. It is the most fertile spot in the district of Quebec, and is covered with fruitful fields, orchards, and gardens. But this island, fruitful as it is, does not equal in fertility that of Montreal. Here was launched that absurd attempt at naval architecture on an extended scale, the ship *Columbus*, afterwards lost on the coast of Wales. She was 3,700 tons register, about 300 feet in length, fifty in breadth, and thirty in depth.

The line of hills which commences at Grenville on the Ottawa, strikes, as has been remarked, the St. Lawrence at Cape Torment, which, rising 1890 feet above the river, forms a most remarkable and magnificent headland. It is the first and highest of a succession of granitic mountains, called, "Les Caps," that rise abruptly from the river, and continue the mountain range unbroken, but by the course of rivers, to within fifteen or twenty miles of the river *Saguenay*, where the land assumes

a degree of flatness and regularity of surface, contrasting singularly with the mountainous character that is developed on the southern shore.

The rivers in this district are not of large size, the most remarkable being the Montmorenci, celebrated for its great rapidity and magnificent fall of 240 feet in one unbroken sheet, over cliffs rising vertically many feet above it, and forming a deep bay at its base, their heads and upper part of their sides, clothed in summer with verdant foliage, contrasting beautifully with its snowy whiteness. In the winter the scene is very singular; the frozen bed of the river becomes a platform, on which the water descends in sheets, making a conical mound of congealed particles, on the inner side assuming a stalactitic character, slightly tinged with the exceedingly minute particles of earthy matter conveyed into the atmosphere with the spray.\*

\* From their proximity to Quebec, the falls of Montmorency are much frequented, and are the scene of constant festivities; both winter and summer parties are made to them, and in the latter season perhaps not less.

At the foot of the falls is an extensive timber establishment.

Vessels of from 150 to 200 tons are launched from the mouth of the rivers St. Charles, Gouffre, Mal Bay, and Petite Riviere, whose estuaries, nearly dry at low water, form convenient strands.

The settlements of Charlesbourg, Beauport, and Cote Beaupré in this district, are fertile and flourishing.

The last river of importance on this coast is the Saguenay, already named as one of the most singular, perhaps, in the world. Its head waters flowing into Lake St. John, are in close communication with those of the St. Maurice, as they are also with the Ottawa, and complete a chain of inland navigation of great extent and peculiarity, and the development of the resources of the country in which it is situated must be of the highest importance to the province.

Situated at the north of the range of hills

joyous after the excitement produced by the rapidity with which the sleigh glances over the frozen snow. Few have sojourned at Quebec who do not associate these falls with some of their happiest hours.

before mentioned, which approach within less than ten leagues of Quebec, and having extensive tracts of cultivatable land among hills of limestone, and well-wooded, although despoiled of its native inhabitants, birds and quadrupeds, by the rapacity and improvidence of the fur-traders, its settlement cannot but be effected at no very distant period. The river itself, issuing from Lake St. John by two "decharges," unites at Chichoutimi, below which place it is navigable for the largest vessels, to the St. Lawrence, having a depth of above 200 fathoms. The Bay of Ha Ha, a short distance below that place, and sixty miles from the river's mouth, seems marked out by nature for the principal seat of trade and commerce of the district. It is surrounded by arable lands of vast extent, and its double harbour is capable of holding in security a large fleet of ships of the line. Here the Sienite cliffs rise precipitously 500 feet above the river.

An expedition was fitted out to explore the Saguenay in 1543, under the command of M. de Roberval; in 1599, the Sieur de Chauvin made a futile attempt to form a

settlement there, but died at Tadousac at the mouth of the river, which seems since then to have been considered only of consequence with reference to the fur-trade, but late surveys have proved the entrance of this river and the Port of Tadousac to be much better than they have hitherto been esteemed.

The country from the Saguenay to Labrador is but little known, except to fishers and fur-traders; its promise for the future is principally in its mineral wealth, which is by no means problematical.

Having thus surveyed the northern shores of the St. Lawrence, and the interior of the country, the districts to the south next claim our attention.

The country from the Ottawa to Quebec, on the north side of the river, is opposed by that highly valuable tract between the southern boundary of the province, and the River Chaudiere; it includes seventeen counties, and in superficial extent may be said to contain about 13,864 square miles; its population may be stated as about 200,000.

It has been already remarked that a



branch of the Green Mountain range in the state of Vermont, runs to the northward of Lakes Champlain and Memphremagog, where this district assumes a highland character, which is continued to the banks of the Chaudiere: but to the north-west the country has a level aspect, varied by occasional bold eminences, the principal of which are Rouville or Belœil, Yamaska, Boucherville, Chambly, Rougemount, and Mount Johnston. This fertile tract is profusely watered by the Rivers Nicolet, St. Francis, Yamaska, Richelieu, Chateauguay, Salmon, and their tributary streams. All these have their rise within the highlands of the province, except the Richelieu, which on this, as on every account, deserves particular mention.

Having its source in the United States, it collects its waters from a surface of 4,800 square miles, concentrating them at Lake Champlain, and flows through the province seventy miles to Fort William Henry, or Sorel, in the county of the same name; its influence in the British territory extends over 1,050 miles. From its junction with

the St. Lawrence, decked vessels of 150 tons can ascend from twelve to fourteen miles; its width is about 250 yards as far as the basin of Chambly, to which point generally small steamers may ascend; from thence its width is 500 yards to St. John's, and from that place it gradually widens the whole way to Lake Champlain, affording a ship navigation to the towns on that Lake, and offering to notice the peculiar feature of a greater width in its upper than in its lower waters. From the Lake the stream is hurried and broken; from the basin to the St. Lawrence, regular and gentle: by it immense quantities of timber, and upon the rafts formed by it many hundred tons of pot and pearl ashes, as well as large quantities of flour, exclusive of what is conveyed in boats, are brought down to the St. Lawrence.

☉ The rich and verdant plain through which this river flows, from the exuberance of its crops, justifies its appellation of the Granary of Lower Canada, affording not only sufficient for a large population, but being the principal source from whence grain is exported to the British market. Its soil is

chiefly clay, combined with marl, and black vegetable earth. The most delightful part of this highly-favoured tract is about the Basin of Chambly, where the fertility of the soil is increased by the mildness of the climate, which is sensibly warmer than even that of the country lying between it and the St. Lawrence: through it is a great thoroughfare to the United States.

The village of La Prairie is a central station for steam-boat navigation, both with the western districts and the States; it is eight miles from Montreal, and has a population of about 2,000. From it, through Chambly, runs the high road to the American States; it is close to the fort of the same name, which stands at the edge of Chambly Basin, a sheet of water, though only about a mile and a half in diameter, singularly ornamental in its features. The islets of St. Jean, covered with dark-hued foliage, in the descent of the rapids of Chambly, have a very picturesque effect.

The fortress was, during the late American war, considered a *point d'appui* of such importance, that a force of 6,000 men was as-

sembled beneath it. At that time the stores and buildings necessary to make it a military depôt were erected. Here is also a flourishing college, established by M. Mignault, the Curé.

The other rivers are generally navigable for bateaux, the Chateauguay and Nicolet for some distance. The latter derives some importance from its situation opposite the town of Three Rivers, on the north bank of the St. Lawrence.

Next in importance is the St. Francis, a river of very peculiar character, which derives its waters on the south, from lakes Memphremagog and Massawhippi among the Connecticut hills, and on the north from those of St. Francis and Meudon, which are fed by streams rising in the hills, from whence flow the tributary waters of the Chaudiere, and the rivers Becancour, Blanche, and Nicolet; its entire course cannot be less than 100 miles, with an area of 1,500.

Its northern and southern sources unite near Sherbrooke, and from thence to its mouth is seventy miles. The navigation is difficult and laborious, but offering a direct

road from the United States, is much in use, more than 1,500 barrels of ashes have been brought down in one summer. Its course is much broken by rapids, and presents extremely picturesque effects. One feature of it recalls to mind the Dalles of the Columbia, and Canons of the Missouri and its tributaries.\* It is situated about a mile from the confluence of the waters, issuing from lake Memphremagog. It is termed a fall; and, indeed, the water descends within that distance 180 feet, (not indeed from perpendicular height, but the contraction of the bed of the river between high walls of rock) with so much violence, that single sticks of timber, if permitted to pass down this channel, are often shivered to pieces.

The Becancour is a stream of a highly picturesque character. The great falls may vie with those of the Chaudiere. These are situated in front of Blandford; the main fall being twenty-four feet high, and the cascades above about thirty-six, and the

\* Names applied in those localities to deep and narrow chasms in the rocks through which the waters are *forcibly compressed*.

course of the whole river is broken by numerous falls and rapids, of a wild and romantic character.

The Yamaska winds through a fertile country for upwards of ninety miles; it waters about 700 square miles; its average width is 400 feet.

The Chaudiere is equal, if not superior in extent to the St. Francis, and its waters must be collected from a surface of not less than 3,000 square miles. In breadth it varies from 400 to 600 yards, and is frequently divided by islands; some of them of many acres, and covered with timber trees. The banks are in general high, rocky, steep, and clothed with wood, and which jutting out into the stream and contracting its channel, occasion a rapid and broken course, highly favourable to the picturesque character, but destructive of the utility of its waters; it, however, forms one road into the States. It is, perhaps, the most varied in scenery of any of the southern tributaries of the St. Lawrence. It has many falls; the Chaudiere falls, about four miles from its mouth, are most celebrated. The river is here narrowed to

about 130 yards, creating a great rush of waters, and is divided into three portions by masses of rock, forming partial cataracts, which uniting in their descent, fall together into the basin beneath.

Although so near Quebec, the country around it maintains its pristine character; and the glancing water, the snowy foam, and the deep shadows of the woods, combine to enhance the brilliancy of the prismatic colours which play above it.

The banks of the St. Lawrence from the heights of point Levi, opposite Quebec, gradually subside into the flats of Baie du Febvre and lake St. Peter eastward. Between the high lands which separate the tributary waters of the Chaudiere from those of the St. John, a narrow tract extends along the bank of the river. From the high grounds opposite Quebec, which gradually descend to the mouth of the river du Sud, 35 miles lower down through the more elevated country flows the river Etchemi, whose head waters approach closely to the St. John, and being more navigable than the Chaudiere, offers an immediate communication with New Brunswick.

A considerable portion of its course is through fine alluvial soil as yet uncultivated.

The river du Sud, rising in the highlands before mentioned, is in its early course rapid and impetuous; but near its mouth meanders through a valley, yielding only to that of the Richelieu in fertility: it forms at its mouth a basin, and is crossed by two bridges. Here first commence those isolated cliffs that form such conspicuous features in the landscape. Composed of granite, they rise in abrupt slopes, presenting rugged faces thinly clad with dwarf trees.

This populous and fertile valley boasts of the chief watering place in Lower Canada, Kamouraska, 90 miles below Quebec. It is remarkable for the salubrity of its air, and perfect salt of its waters, the St. Lawrence being here six leagues in length. Below this the nearer approach of the highlands narrows the breadth of land between them and the river. Here, crossing the rivers du Loup and Verte, is the Temiscouata portage of 12 leagues in length, uniting the St. Lawrence with Lake Temiscouata, by which is the high road to Fredericton, St. John's, New



Brunswick, and through them to Halifax : by it the mail is carried. On the river du Loup below the portage is a very extensive timber establishment. From hence the country is steep and rugged over the highlands of Bic to the Rimouski, where there are extensive settlements, fisheries, and salt works. Below this the coast is of more moderate elevation until it rises abruptly at Grand Mitis, twenty-four miles from Rimouski.

About the Grand and Little Mitis, distant only six miles, the soil though light is fertile. The bay, from its depth and breadth, position and soundings, is esteemed favourable for the temporary resort of vessels for pilots, &c. ; and here also are extensive fisheries of cod, halibut, salmon, and herring. Seals abound in great numbers, and are seen basking on the rocks in all directions.

The river Mitis is closely connected with a tributary of the St. John's, and the Metapediac, a feeder of the Restigouche, approaches closely to its neighbour, the Tirtigo. Here, therefore, is the connexion between the St. Lawrence and Bay des Chaleurs by the Restigouche.

The country between the Mitis and Matane still continues a wilderness, but offers many advantages to the settler: it is watered by the rivers Tirtigo, Blanche, and other inferior streams. At Matane there is a small settlement, and twenty-seven miles below, at Cape Chat, is a depôt for the relief of shipwrecked seamen. Nine miles further on is St. Anne's, the last settlement on this coast. These are in the district of Gaspé, a peninsular tract lying between the St. Lawrence and Bay of Chaleurs. From recent surveys it appears that this consists of an elevated valley, supported by lines of hills from the St. Lawrence and Restigouche, and containing numerous lakes and rivers, their tributaries, discharging themselves into the sea on the east of Gaspé Bay. The surface of the country is uneven, in some parts mountainous, covered with a fine growth of timber, and well adapted for agriculture: but little is known of the interior, the settlements being confined to the coast. It abounds with lime and coal. Its fisheries, principally of cod, are most extensive, as are also those of herring and salmon: the whale

fishery is also productive. Its timber trade, though in its infancy, and susceptible of great augmentation, is very flourishing. Gaspé Bay is one of the best harbours on the coast, and capable of containing 300 or 400 sail at a time: it is easy of access, secure, and has good anchorage.

## CHAPTER IV.

## TOPOGRAPHY—CANADA WEST.

UPPER Canada, separated from the lower province in 1791, but now again joined to it, is divided from the United States by the river St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes, and their connecting waters. On the west it is bounded by the Indian or Hudson's Bay territory, while its eastern limit is the river Ottawa to lake Temiscaming, and thence by a line along the southern extremity of the Hudson's Bay Company's territories, generally understood to indicate a range of highlands dividing the rivers and streams falling into Hudson's Bay from those which have their outlet in the lakes and river St. Lawrence.

Within these limits its superficies may be estimated at 141,000 square miles. Of this about one-third is laid out in townships, besides the Crownlands, and above 1,500,000 *acres on Lake Huron*, formerly known as

the Indian country. In 1788 it was divided into four districts by Lord Dorchester: Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nassau, and Hesse; but these denominations were changed in 1792, into those of the Eastern, Midland, Home, and Western, and afterwards the number of districts was increased to eleven, containing twenty-six counties, and six ridings: these are extended in number in proportion to the increase of population. The districts are named respectively, Eastern, Ottawa, Bathurst, and Johnstone, lying between the Ottawa and St. Lawrence; Midland, Newcastle, Havre, and Gore, on the shores of Lake Ontario; the Home district, stretching across to Georgian Bay, Niagara on the river of that name, London stretching from Lake Erie to Lake Huron, and in which lie the lands of the Canada Company; and Western, in the angle formed by those lakes, and abutting on the river Detroit, or more properly the Detroit and the lake and river St. Clair.

Of the country thus laid out there is an *aggregate of 16,816,800 acres*. Of these *7,000,000 are granted in free and common*

socage, and 4,805,400 reserved for crown and clergy lands, part of which have been granted to the Canada Company, and the rest remain available for sale or grant.

This extent of surface, stretching above 550 miles west, and from fifty to eighty miles north, and lying between parallels  $41\frac{3}{4}$  and  $45\frac{1}{2}$  north latitude, has a soil and climate which, for productiveness and fertility, may challenge competition with any part of North America.

The allotted part of Upper Canada will appear, on reference to the map, of a triangular shape, having its base on the Ottawa, and its sides to lakes Erie, Ontario, and Huron. Carrying out the principle that a country is best described by its natural features, and that these resolve themselves for the most part into two, viz. hill and water, we find, commencing at the Ottawa, a range of hills separating the tributary waters of that river from those of the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario, between which it pursues a westerly course.

This, however, should perhaps be rather considered as an elevated table-land, and ha

this singular character, that with a base on one side of eighty and on the other of fifty miles, it has the same ratio of descent towards both, viz. four feet one inch to a mile; which is accounted for by the fact ascertained by actual survey,—that the waters of Lake Ontario are about 130 feet above the level of those of the Ottawa, the effect of which will be seen when considered with reference to the lakes as a system.

Dividing the head waters of the Rideau from those of the Napannée, and those of the Mississippi from the Moira, and thence pursuing a westerly course along the heads of numerous streams, tributaries of the Trent river, and a chain of small lakes, stretching towards Lake Simcoe, it passes eighteen miles north of Balsam Lake, the most westerly of these, from whence the water communication, in a north-westerly direction, nearly reaches the Madawaska river, from the head waters of which it is divided by another range, raised above that already spoken of, which first taking an easterly direction divides the waters falling into the Ottawa from the feeders of Lake Huron,

and then, bending north-west, separates the waters of that lake from those of James' and Hudson's Bay, and joins the grand ridge of highlands between the latter and the great lakes.

From the Bay of Quinté another range runs along the north shore of Lake Ontario, in some places not more than nine miles distant, dividing the streams flowing into that lake from those which empty themselves into Rice Lake and Trent River,—Pigeon Lake and Otanabee River. Receding northward, it separates those falling into lakes Simcoe and Huron from those of Ontario, and bending round the Toronto and its tributaries, which it separates from those of the Grand or Ouse River, pursues a south-easterly direction, till it is merged in Burlington Heights, at Burlington Bay, whence it runs along the south side of Lake Ontario, between four and eight miles from its shores, and continuing its easterly direction, passes along the southern shore of the lake, at a distance of about twelve miles, subsiding at Rochester on the Genessee. This ridge, though the source of the maller streams



falling into Lake Ontario, does not affect the larger, but is, nevertheless, a well-defined and striking feature, pointing out the original boundary of the lake.

From this it will appear, that the country lying between the two chains thus described, and comprising the Newcastle, Midland and part of the Home districts, consists of an elevated table land, containing several lakes of considerable importance, discharging themselves respectively into the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron, and by the Trent into the Bay of Quinté, in Lake Ontario.

To the south and west of this, lies a comparatively level tract of alluvial land, narrow indeed, on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, but beyond it spreading into the extensive triangle containing the London, Western, and Gore districts, while to the north it is separated from the valley of the Ottawa by the range of hills in which the respective tributaries of that river, and those by which it is so plentifully watered, take their rise.

The connexion thus indicated between the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron, and the Bay of Quinté, cannot escape obser-

vation, and will be hereafter referred to, as well as its importance in predisposing the future character and prospects of the districts with which it is connected.

Upper Canada, or, as we should now call it, Canada West, naturally divides itself with reference to the allotted districts into three parts:—

1. That between the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa.
2. On the shores of Lake Ontario.
3. In the angle between Lake Erie and Lake Huron.

From its position between the two principal rivers of British North America, the first of these enjoys important natural advantages. These have been heightened by art in the construction of the Rideau Canal, by which a junction is effected between Lake Ontario and the Ottawa.

Its surface is a table-land of moderate elevation, and the soil extremely rich and fertile, consisting chiefly of brown clay and yellow loam, and the growth of its woods attests its quality. It is intersected by numerous rivers, generally having their sources

in the higher parts of the district, which are found nearer its western extremity, and falling either into the Ottawa to the north, or the St. Lawrence. The latter are comparatively unimportant, and have their rise only in the side of the table-land, while the former extend over its surface, and spread into numerous lakes, and if they occasionally render it marshy, they yet increase its fertility and adaptation for settlement; the principal of these are the Madawaska and Rideau, and the lakes for the most part form their head waters.

At the eastern angle of this division is the county of Vaudreuil, belonging to the old province of Lower Canada, the situation of which gives it great advantages. Coteau du Lac is a military post, and port of entry.

This district has received great improvements, and presents a more finished aspect than either of the others. At its southwestern angle is situated the town of Kingston, next to Toronto the largest and most populous in the province. It was built on the site of the old French fort Frontinac, in 1783. Its position at the junction of Lake Ontario

and the St. Lawrence is of great importance, and it is the centre of both water and land communication with the western districts. The harbour is well sheltered, and convenient for ships not exceeding eighteen feet draught. It is defended by two batteries, one on Mississagee point, and the other on Point Frederick, which is connected with the town by a handsome wooden bridge. Opposite it is a long, low peninsula, forming the eastern side of Navy Bay; its western is formed by another; the extremity of which is Point Henry. Here is the principal depôt of the Royal Navy on Lake Ontario. On its western side are the dockyards, storehouses, slips for building men-of-war, naval barracks, and houses for the authorities and workmen; and here was built the St. Lawrence, of 120 guns. The existence of so large a vessel so far from the sea is not a little singular.

The approach to the harbour is by three channels, Batteaux Channel, between Wolfe and Forest Island, used principally by small craft; South Channel, between the latter and Snake Island, which is surrounded by sand-banks; and the North Channel, between

Snake Island and the main; this, though the longest, is by far the best.

Opposed to Kingston is the American station of Sacket's Harbour, where every exertion is made to maintain a naval force of greater magnitude than the British.

Kingston is fast rising into importance, notwithstanding the removal of the seat of government to Montreal, and her short enjoyment of the honours and profits attending her possession of it.

The public buildings are particularly handsome; especially the Town-hall, and Roman Catholic cathedral. The Public Hospital is also an important and extensive edifice, and the churches worthy of notice. The population probably exceeds 12,000; the number of tons of shipping entering its port annually, is not less than 400,000; the value of goods imported, considerably upwards of 200,000*l.* Ten first-class steamers run daily to and from Kingston; and its trade is carried on by a fleet of 250 smaller steamers, propellers, schooners, and sailing barges.

Its progress is not to be wondered at;

when it is considered that Kingston is "the key of the great lakes," the St. Lawrence and Rideau Canal bearing the whole stream of the inland trade into and from its port; but the enlargement of the canals communicating with the St. Lawrence, to a sufficient size for the admission of vessels of burden, will probably deprive her of the profits now attendant on the necessary unshipment of bulky goods; promptness and activity on the part of her inhabitants will, however, suffice to counteract this, as well as the opposition of the Erie Canal, by which a large proportion of the trade of the lakes is diverted to the United States; this latter presents the less difficulty, as the harbour of Kingston, and entrance to the Rideau Canal, is open much longer than those on the southern shore of the Lake, being usually free from ice from the beginning of April till the end of November. Its importance as a naval station cannot, from its position, ever be lessened; and if a canal is cut through the isthmus which unites Prince Edward's Island to the main, both its political and mercantile ascendancy will be insured by affording a direct passage to the western

districts, secure from danger, either from an enemy, or the winds, waves, rocks and currents that impede navigation around the shores of that island.

Two of the most remarkable settlements in this district are Perth, situated on a branch of the Rideau, in a commanding situation, the first establishment of which in 1815 was fostered by government, and its present condition fully justifies the experiment,—and Bytown, so named after Colonel By, the commanding Royal engineer of the station, standing on a high and bold eminence, on both sides of Canal Bay, on the Ottawa, at the north-eastern entrance of the Rideau Canal, in a position of the very first importance, as it is one of the greatest beauty, being close to the Chadiere falls; it is, in consequence, rapidly increasing. Along the north bank of the St. Lawrence stand Cornwall, Johnston, Brookville, and other rapidly improving towns and settlements. The frontier of the district is defended by Fort Wellington, formerly Prescott, which is opposed to the American fort, Ogdenburgh, or Oswegatchie; it is situated at the head of

the boat navigation of the St. Lawrence, and the foot of the steam navigation of the lakes, in a position offering important advantages that cannot fail to accelerate its progress.

This district, as the centre of the provinces, whether by land or water communication, for commerce or agriculture, does not, perhaps, yield in consideration to any; nor will it lose its importance when the western line of traffic is brought from Georgian Bay by the tributaries of the Ottawa, and through its waters to the St. Lawrence, its base on the first-named stream fully securing them.

The most remarkable feature of the second district is the Trent River, and chain of lakes from whence it derives its waters. These form an intimate connexion with Lake Simcoe, whose waters are discharged into Gloster Bay, at the south of Georgian Bay, in Lake Huron, and stretching far to the north-west, as has been remarked, are as closely united to the head waters of the Madawaska and its tributaries.

The colonial government commenced opening the navigation of this river, but in a



most unaccountable manner changed their first intention, and remained content with forming slides for timber round its principal falls. This has, however, been the means of raising into greater importance the district through which it flows, and the trade in timber is in consequence very considerable; but it is to be hoped that the original design will now at length be fully carried out; that the labours of the agriculturist may take the place of those of the lumberer.

Trent Port is situated at the mouth of the river; and although at present only important on account of the timber trade, must rise into notice with great rapidity when the canal is opened.

The character of the Trent varies extremely; here slow and tortuous, there rapid and broken; in some places spreading into beautiful lakes, in others forming picturesque cascades. The country through which this river flows offers a fine field for the settler; its forests, formed of the finest timber, indicating the fertility of its soil; and nothing is wanting that unassisted nature can supply. The woods abound with game; the waters

teem with fish ; and the borders of the lakes afford a plentiful supply of wild rice of an excellent quality, from which, indeed, one of them takes its name.

Near the roads which cross the Trent, the price of land is rapidly rising, and more than one flourishing settlement attests the desirableness of the location. And indeed, if the future be considered, scarcely any part of the province seems to afford so inviting a prospect, although ague prevails among the low lands. This, however, will disappear before the axe of the settler, and has not, even now, prevented the establishment of a considerable settlement on Rice Lake, which is daily increasing, in consequence of the advantages afforded by steam communication, which has already been effected in this retired district.

This river having thus plentifully watered the table-land situated between the high land to the north and the former boundary of Lake Ontario, falls into the Bay of Quinté, which, with a deep and sinuous course, stretches into the land to the west, being separated at its mouth from the harbour of Kingston by Amherst Island.

*The shores of the bay of Quinté present a*

scene of the greatest fertility and beauty, being covered with thriving, and, for the most part, long established settlements. "It is, indeed," says a recent writer, "a glad and a rich country." At the Mohawk village of Tyendinaga has been lately built, at the expense of the Indians, a substantial stone church, of Gothic architecture. Its spire, 107 feet in height, rises gracefully from the heavy foliage of the surrounding woods, and it is, altogether, no less an ornament to the scenery than a credit to that nation.

On the north shore of the bay, the village of Picton, with its handsome church, occupies a beautiful indentation, embosomed in hills; while Belleville, the capital of the Victoria district, has risen, in the short space of ten years, to be a large and flourishing town, containing above 4,000 inhabitants, three handsome places of worship, besides public buildings; while the habitations which surround them indicate its steadily increasing wealth and prosperity.

The isthmus between this bay and Lake Ontario is but three furlongs broad, and its deep indentations in a course of fifty miles afford *secure harbourage* for vessels. Besides the

Trent, it receives the waters of the Napanee, the Shannon, and the Moira. On the south of the Trent, in the township of Percy, are salt-springs, from which that article is manufactured: it does not, however, possess the preservative qualities of sea-salt. The land on the borders of the bay is thickly inhabited and well cultivated, producing abundant crops of grain. The chain of lakes before mentioned, which water the district of Newcastle, and connect themselves with branch lakes, form in reality the head waters of the Trent, the Otanabee uniting that lake to Rice Lake, from whence it flows to Lake Ontario. It may be remarked, that few maps have the waters carefully and correctly marked; but Bouchette's large survey shows the connexion very clearly, and indicates the course of the tributaries. Both the Otanabee and Trent are navigable for boats. Rice Lake is about twenty-five miles long, by four or five wide; its margin is covered with wild rice, which is gathered by the Indians for their own uses, as well as for sale, and it forms the food of abundance of wild fowl, being common in the low lands of *this district*. Here government has lately

located a body of Indians in a most desirable situation.

The Severn, having its source in Lake Simcoe, is rapid and broken in its current, the lake being raised above 100 feet higher than Lake Huron: this seriously interferes with the otherwise important connexion which exists between it and the head waters of the Trent.

Lake Simcoe covers a surface of 300 square miles; the lands around it are remarkably fine, the soil being deep and easily worked, as indeed are the greater part of those in this district, if a sandy plain between the Ontario and Rice Lake be excepted, and yield luxuriant crops of wheat, rye, maize, or Indian corn, as it is called in Canada, peas, barley, oats, and buck-wheat, as well as fruits and garden vegetables.

Lake Simcoe affords the means of transit from Toronto to Lake Huron, by Holland river. This has been described "as a natural canal, flowing through a vast marsh, with most serpentine convolutions, often doubling *on itself*." Nevertheless, it is navigated by a *steam-boat*, which plies regularly on the lake. *Holland river* "creeps" into Lake Simcoe.

which again discharges itself by the rapid and broken stream of the Machedash or Severn river into Lake Huron.

On the elevated shore of Kempenfeldt bay a deep and extremely beautiful inlet of this lake, the rising village of Barrie is admirably situated for communication with the extreme western settlements, and promises to be a place of considerable importance, at no very distant period of time, affording every facility for the transit trade, and having the command of Lake Simcoe. All the improvements in this part of the country date within the last ten years.

To this district naturally appertain the settlements on the shores of Georgian Bay. Of these, Penetanguishene is the most important. This was originally selected as an asylum for such Canadian French as would not transfer their allegiance, when, after the peace, Drummond's Island was ceded to the United States. Here they located in a body, but, like all other Canadian settlements, it wanted English influences for its advancement. *Situated at the extremity of the line which the British emigrants have carried from the shores of the bay of Quinté to the*

of Lake Huron, it is now, both politically and commercially, rising into importance; as is also that at Owen's Sound. The yearly presents to the Indians were formerly distributed here, as they are now at Manitoulin Island, in Lake Huron, where government has succeeded in locating a large number of the aborigines. At Penetanguishene a steam vessel of war is maintained. The population is upwards of 1,000, independent of the garrison, which is situated three miles from the village. Here Lord Seaton located destitute soldiers who had commuted their pensions, but his laudable attempt failed. Not so, however, a military settlement since made in the vicinity, which is prospering most satisfactorily.

The location of the Indians on the Manitoulin Islands, and the recent discovery of copper about Lake Superior, will, no doubt, effect the rapid spread of civilization and commerce westward: and the communication with the settlement on the Red River may now be contemplated at no very distant period of time. *The climate, however, of these regions, offers a serious obstacle to this progress; the length and severity of the winters, from the extent*

of surface covered with water, being considerably greater than in Canada.

York, or Toronto, is a handsome and well-situated town, on the north side of an excellent harbour, in latitude  $43^{\circ} 30' N.$ ; it was founded by Governor-General Simcoe, in 1793, and may now contain upwards of 20,000 inhabitants.

Here was the seat of government of the upper province, for which it contains the necessary edifices, and it is remarkable for having a college for the education of the youth of the colonies, under the auspices of the Church of England. It is also the seat of a Bishop of the Established Church of England, and of the courts of law of Western Canada.

The garrison is situated to the westward of the town. The harbour is nearly circular, and formed by a very narrow peninsula stretching to the westward, and terminating in a curved point nearly opposite the garrison, which incloses a basin about one mile and a half in diameter, capable of holding a great number of vessels, and where ships may lie in security during the winter.

*The peninsula is a narrow slip of land, in some places not more than sixty yards*



breadth, but widening at its extremity to nearly a mile. Here has been erected a fort and lighthouse. It is also intersected by many large ponds, the haunt of abundance of wildfowl. The peninsula is of sand, on which is a coarse growth of grass and a few scattered trees.

From Toronto, Yonge-street, the line of communication with Lake Simcoe, ascends gradually by a succession of terraces 750 feet above Lake Ontario, through a country affording indisputable evidence of a rapidly increasing population; the land is fertile, and Toronto affords a market for its produce.

The sides of the hills show plainly the successive and gradually decreasing water level of the lake, the boundary of which must have been at one time the range of hills which now divides the waters falling into Georgian Bay from those which flow into lakes Huron and Erie.

This evidence of the former enormous volume of these lakes is to be found on all their shores, and enables us to form some idea of the stupendous power which has been brought into action to produce the present *features* of the country.

Four miles from Toronto is Montgomery's tavern, where the loyal inhabitants under Sir Francis Head, their governor, defeated the insurgents and American sympathizers; the tavern was burned to the ground, in revenge for the inhuman murder of Colonel Moodie, who was shot by them while passing on the road to Toronto, and died there, but has since been rebuilt, and restored to its original owner.

The soil in this neighbourhood is a brick clay, which is coming into extensive use for building, being found to resist the action of the weather and the frost better than the limestone of the district, as well as proving warmer in winter. Toronto is the entrance to the western districts generally, as well of Gore and Wellington as those to the north.

The triangular district which completes the organised portion of Upper Canada, lying between lakes Erie and Huron, is separated from the United States on the east by Niagara River, and on the west by the river Detroit and the lake and river St. Clair, and assumes, from its position, both politically and physically, a most im-

portant aspect with reference to Upper Canada. Politically, because the close approach of its extremities to the United States lays it open to invasion in case of hostilities, and in consequence it became a frequent scene of conflict during the two wars in which Great Britain has been engaged with them. Physically, on account of its fertility, favourable position for internal commerce, and salubrity of climate.

The whole tract lies south of the latitude of Montreal, and its southern extremity, Pelée Island, is in latitude  $41^{\circ} 45'$ . Its entire surface, excepting the districts of Erie and Niagara, traversed by the range before mentioned as extending thence along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, exhibits a uniformly level or slightly undulating country, where the highest eminences do not exceed 150 feet; and although from this cause the scenery is less picturesque than that of other parts of Canada, yet, the still course of its waters, and the depth of its majestic woods, give a sublimity to its character that must be felt to be appreciated.

This district is alluvial in its formation,

and principally consists of a stratum of black or yellow loam, above which is deposited a rich and deep vegetable mould, the subsoil consisting of a tenacious grey or blue clay. There is through the whole of it a general want of stone, although limestone is found in many districts, and freestone along the shores of the lakes. The hard woods predominate, there being scarcely sufficient pine and cedar for building and fencing. In the heart of the dense woods extensive plains present themselves, agreeably diversified with clumps of trees, and frequently of several thousand miles in extent. The largest of these are found near Long Point on Grand River. Broad and beautiful meadows are also found, which prevail more generally in the London district. The whole is well watered. Its principal rivers are the Thames, the Ouse or Grand River, the Welland or Chippewa, the Big Bear, and the Maitland. The Welland, rising most to the eastward, flows through the district of Niagara from Brisbrooke, about fifty miles from its mouth, which is but three miles above the stupendous falls of the same name, its navigation

wholly unobstructed, and for twenty-five miles varies in depth from nine to fourteen feet. It is connected with lakes Ontario and Erie by the canal bearing its name. Thriving settlements, amongst which Hamilton is conspicuous, are scattered over this part of the country.

Fort George, or Niagara, formerly called Newark, occupies a most advantageous position between that river and Lake Ontario, which unite from Mississagua Point, where a lighthouse has been built. It has a good harbour, and is rapidly rising into importance. Dundas, about forty-five miles from Toronto, is well situated at the head of Burlington Bay, which is a lake formed by a sandbank, through which a canal has been cut, and thus an excellent harbour formed.

Queenstown is built on the fertile plain, beneath the heights of the same name, at the foot of the portage below the falls. Here is erected a monument to General Brock, whose memory is still cherished in the province as the hero of Upper Canada. It is a lofty pillar, and placed in a conspicuous position.

The Ouse, or Grand River, is navigable for

small vessels upwards of twenty-five miles, and for large boats much further. Its mouth is obstructed by a bar, on which is only eight feet of water, but offers an improvable harbour. The navigation is now open for steamboats to Brandford, a place rapidly rising into importance as the centre of a rich arable district. Its banks abound with gypsum and iron ore, which supplies the works at Charlotteville. Having been originally appropriated to the Indians, their villages are dispersed along its course—the Senecas, near the mouth; then Delawares, Mississagas, Onondagas, Tuscaroras, and Cayugas. There are also some settlements of the Mohawks.

The northern shores of Lake Erie are generally low and level, but irregular, and varied with projecting points, which render navigation more difficult than in the other lakes. Of these points Abino, Long Point or North Foreland, Point aux Pins or Landguard, and Point Peleé or South Foreland, are most conspicuous.

Point Abino and Port Talbot offer stations for shipping, and Landguard incloses a surface of water equal to eight square miles,

communicating with the lake by a small outlet. Pigeon Bay, to the west of South Foreland, as well as another on the east, afford good anchorage. It is thirty miles from the entrance of Detroit River.

The Thames, formerly denominated Rivière à la Franche, has its sources on the south, near the head waters of the Ouse, and on the north, near those of one branch of the Maitland, and after a sinuous course of 150 miles, discharges itself into Lake St. Clair. At the mouth of this river there is also a bar, but it is navigable for large vessels for fifteen miles to Chatham, and for boats nearly to its source. It flows through an alluvial district, rich in every requisite for a new settlement. It presents fine plains and natural meadows, and the woods growing about it are of the first quality.

Chatham is advantageously situated for trade and commerce; and London, from its central situation, may hereafter take the lead among the many rapidly improving places in this district. It is already a large and flourishing town, has wide streets, brick houses, and is a military station.

Big Bear River or "Creek," as it is usually called, runs nearly parallel to the Thames, and in one part approaches it within four or five miles. Its course of 100 miles is through a district of similar character.

The country about the rivers Ouse, Sable, and Maitland, on the south and north of the Huron tract of the Canada Company, is recently settled and comparatively but little known. It is, however, among the most promising districts in Canada West, yielding to none in fertility, and having the advantage of systematic allotment, and the expenditure of considerable sums by the Company in public works, mills, roads, and harbours; so that already Goderich has become a port of some consequence, and trade and agriculture are rapidly progressing. That town is beautifully situated at the mouth of the river Maitland, on the banks of Lake Huron, which rise to the height of 130 feet, and may contain 1000 inhabitants. Bayfield, situated on the river of the same name, is also a considerable town. The whole district is fast settling, and already contains several thousand inhabitants.



The channels of the rivers in the Huron tract are principally limestone, and the water consequently excellent. The surface is generally undulating; and the scenery, from the magnificence of the trees, their size and distance from each other, has frequently a park-like appearance.

Amherstburgh, a frontier town and military post, is situated on the banks of the Detroit, in perhaps the most delightful part of this highly favoured district; where the salubrity of the climate, the clearness of the atmosphere, the crystalline purity of the waters, the exuberant fertility, richness, and delicacy of its vegetable productions, the variety of game with which its magnificent woods abound, enlivened as they are by the cheerful notes of the feathered warblers which inhabit them, and the numerous fish which play in its waters, combine to afford not only every necessary, but every luxury to man. It is, therefore, no wonder that it should rank among the most respectable and wealthy of the towns of the province, or possess, though removed so far from the capital, "the pleasures of good society and charms of social

refinement." Indeed, of the whole of this district, it would be difficult to convey a correct idea without seeming exaggeration.

A monument has been erected in this town to the memory of those who fell in repelling the piratical invasions of the citizens of the United States. Conspicuously placed on the frontier, it will serve to remind succeeding generations of the folly, no less than the wickedness, of acting in opposition to the laws of nations, as well as those of morality and religion.

The rapid settlement of Canada West has been accompanied by a corresponding development of its resources for trade and commerce, which its superior internal water-communication has powerfully assisted; and where this is defective, art has applied sufficient remedies in the Welland and Rideau canals, with their auxiliary cuttings on the Ottawa and St. Lawrence.

The former of these was originally undertaken by a Company incorporated in 1825, with a capital of 180,000*l.*, and was projected by Mr. W. H. Morritt, a resident in

the village of St. Catherine's, through which it now passes.

It is forty-two miles in length, and consists of three sections; the first extending from Grand River to the Welland, sixteen miles; the second being part of that river, ten miles; and the third connecting it with Lake Ontario, sixteen miles. It joins the Ouse, or Grand River, about one mile and a half from its mouth, where the inconvenience of a shifting bar is remedied by piers extending into the deep water of the lake.

This canal has, however, another outlet into Lake Erie, through the Niagara river; which affords greater facilities for the commerce of Buffalo and the more easterly shores of the lake, while that from the west and south is more readily directed into the mouth of the other channel, which has this advantage, that the prevalence of westerly winds in the spring, packing the ice on the eastern shores of the lake, leaves its entrance free from that obstruction at a much earlier period. This also operates, as has been remarked, to give the Welland a superiority over the Erie canal, in ad-

dition to those it has always possessed in depth and breadth.

Their relative proportions were, originally,  
The Welland, breadth, 56ft. depth,  $8\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

The Erie, „ 40ft. „ 4 ft.

In the former, the chambers of the locks were 100ft. by 22ft. ; in the latter, 90ft. by 12ft. ; and as it has seventy-seven, in its course of 353 miles, and those of the most solid construction, any alteration must be attended with immense expense.

To secure the transit trade of the lakes with the Atlantic is, of course, the object of these canals ; and in their efforts to accomplish this, the Canadians have surpassed their southern rivals ; so that their artificial waters being accommodated to the demands of a rapidly increasing trade, and the admission of vessels of large tonnage, they may look forward to reaping the fruits of their industry and perseverance.

The importance of this will best be seen by an estimate of the tonnage employed in this trade.

In 1844, it exceeded 80,000 ; and, calculating at the same ratio of progression as the

five preceding years, it has now in all probability reached 100,000; its increase in that time having been three-fold. The rapid advance of trade is demonstrated by the fact, that, while in 1830 some six or seven steamers only were to be found on Lake Erie, its waters are now furrowed by the constant passage of upwards of sixty vessels, not less remarkable for their enlargement in size than in number. To these must be added, some ten smaller boats, besides proppers, fifty brigs, and nearly three hundred schooners.

The excellence of the packet boats on this lake is evidenced by the customary passage from Kingston to Toronto being made in eighteen hours, or about ten miles an hour including stoppages of all kinds. Ontario is not far behind her sister, but the westward stream of settlement is in favour of Lake Erie.

The Welland canal has probably exceeded its originally estimated cost by double its amount; and it was found necessary that upwards of 200,000*l.* should be laid out upon it by Government. The total cost has pro-

bably exceeded 500,000/. This has, however, been consequent on the great difficulties that presented themselves, the water-level of Lake Erie being 334 feet above that of Lake Ontario, and the consequent necessity of constructing thirty-seven locks to overcome them, thirty-two of which are in almost immediate succession.

But the Welland canal thus uniting the waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and affording an easy mode of transit to the southwestern districts of Canada, has another element of national importance too great to be omitted.

The Niagara frontier must always be greatly exposed in the event of war, and by it vessels may pass in safety through the heart of our own territory, instead of being subject to any attack in their passage down the river. This afforded one great inducement to its extension to Grand River, and is an advantage possessed to a still greater extent by the Rideau, which is carried even further inland, and is protected at its junction with Lake Ontario, by the fortifications of Kingston, while the mouth of the

Ottawa river, with the waters of which it communicates towards the east, is entirely surrounded by British territory, and covered by the island and city of Montreal. The events of 1837-8 having shown how little the authority of a democracy can control the people it professes to rule, afford sufficient evidence of the necessity of such a provision.

The Rideau canal crosses the country between the St. Lawrence and Ottawa, in a transverse direction, and unites with the latter river below the Chaudière falls; a little above it are the Rideau, near the mouth of the river of the same name, and which aptly expresses their character.

The formation of this canal is singular; presenting rather the appearance of a series of lakes, some natural, but for the most part artificial, the valleys being flooded by dams built across the course of the rivers, and united together by aqueducts and locks. These not unfrequently have more than one perceptible channel, and the decayed vegetable substances with which the surface of the ground was covered, floating to the top,

clothe the waters with a green mantle, and offer an appearance the peculiarity of which has been so graphically described in a recent publication.\*

Rideau Lake, which is about twenty-four miles long, with an average breadth of seven, is the highest level of its waters, being 283 feet above the Ottawa, and 154 above the surface of Lake Ontario; to overcome this difference of height, seventeen locks are required from Kingston to that lake, and thirty between it and the Ottawa.

There are twenty dams throughout the whole length of this canal, and their effect is surprising. "In several instances a dam not more than 24 feet high and 180 feet wide will throw the rapids and rivers into a still sheet above it, for a distance of more than twenty miles." So that the face of the country through which it is carried is strangely altered. The land thus drowned was not, generally, of much value, the beavers having of old carried out the same principle for their own purposes, and created large swampy wastes, which, if they did not suggest its

\* Sir F. Head's "Backwoodsman."



application to the purposes of commercial intercourse, at least serve to show how near the unassisted efforts of instinct approach those of reason.

The locks on this canal were originally planned upon the same scale as those of the Grenville and La Chine canals, but afterwards increased to 142 feet in length by 33 in width, with a depth of five feet water. The estimated expense of constructing the works was little short of half a million sterling; this however, has been already much extended.

The Grenville and La Chine canals complete the union of the lakes and St. Lawrence; the former consisting of three sections; one at Long Sault, on the Ottawa, another at Chute à Blondeau, and the third at the Carillon rapids. By these an uninterrupted navigation is opened to La Chine, nine miles above Montreal; and by them, and the Rideau, all the difficulties presented by the River Ottawa, and the Iroquois or Cataract channel of the St. Lawrence, (which, however beautiful and accessible through its intricate *windings* among the Thousand Islands, *interposes, below them, insuperable barriers* to

navigation), have been overcome. A canal has been projected to do so more immediately, which would doubtless return a satisfactory interest on the capital embarked. Railroads, however, seem likely for the present to supersede canals, and absorb the capital to be devoted to internal communication, which, nevertheless, appears more perfectly developed in the infancy of the Canadas, than in many long established kingdoms; so great are the effects of capital and energy, when brought to bear on a country whose natural "capabilities" are of so high an order.

That large vessels are preparing to carry the timber of Canada West direct to the West Indies, and that, at present, sufficient vessels cannot be found to transport the produce of those favoured lands for the supply of the mother country, while attention has been directed to the reopening of the fisheries, the smelting of iron in the Ottawa and Trent districts, and the production of copper from the shores of Lake Superior, are facts which require only to be known, to induce *the conviction that what has been done is only the prelude to greater things, and the*

from the union of the Atlantic with the  
Lakes must proceed their connexion with  
the Pacific, until the commerce of Great  
Britain and her colonies extends in one  
broken chain from the rising to the setting  
sun!

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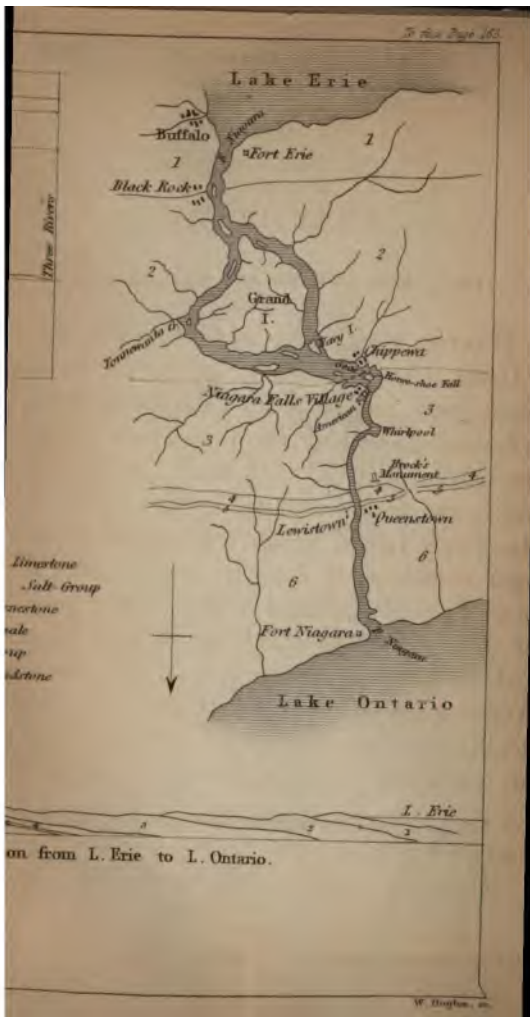
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The River

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 etc. etc.  
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 etc. etc.

on from L. Erie to L. Ontario.

## CHAPTER V.

## THE LAKES AND RIVERS OF CANADA.

HAVING traced the connexion of the "Great River of Canada," as the St. Lawrence was originally called, through its tributaries, by which the lower part of the province is watered both to the north and south, and with the upper by the shores of the Great Lakes, which form its southern land boundary, it remains only to give a more particular account of this mighty mass of fresh water, far exceeding in superficies and contents, if not in length, the rivers Amazon and Mississippi, although from the depth of the lakes it does not probably carry to the ocean a larger volume of water.\*

\* The Tables of Physical Geography give the following comparison:—

	miles.	
Amazon, length .	4,095,	proportion $22\frac{1}{4}$
Mississippi    " .	3,420,	"    29
St. Lawrence  " .	4,050,	" $22\frac{1}{2}$

But this has only reference to length.

Without this the topography of Canada would indeed be incomplete, more especially as it has been the basis of the previous description; as it is the natural link between its two divisions, and the source of the beauty, fertility, and prosperity of the province.

If the St. Lawrence be considered as flowing through the lakes, its source must be sought in the river St. Louis, which falls into the western extremity of Lake Superior, to the south of the boundary of the United States, through which, by an easterly and south-easterly course it reaches Lake Erie, and thence, with a gradually increasing north-easterly direction, flows through Lake Ontario to the Atlantic, above two thousand miles from its source.

The name of the river, thus considered, varies in different places; between Lake Superior and Lake Huron, it is called the Narrows, or the Straits or Falls of St. Mary's; from the latter lake to Lake St. Clair it is termed the River St. Clair; and thence to Lake Erie, the Detroit or River Detroit; between Lakes Erie and Ontario the River *Niagara*, and from Lake Ontario to Montreal

the Cataraqui or Iroquois; below this it assumes its more common appellation, derived from the gulf into which it flows, viz. the St. Lawrence.

Lake Superior, the most northern of these fresh water inland seas, being situated between the parallels  $46^{\circ} 25'$  and  $49^{\circ}$  north lat. is unequalled in magnitude by any other in the world; its length, measured on a curved line through the centre, is about 360 geographical miles, its extreme breadth 140, and its circumference 1500. The surface of its waters is 627 feet above the level of the Atlantic, while its greatest depth exceeds 1,200, or nearly 600 feet below the level of that ocean. Its shores, however, sufficiently indicate that the former height of its waters must have exceeded the present by at least forty or fifty feet, while its basin, extending in some places fifty miles from its present limits, was bounded by those mountain ridges, in which the rivers tributary to it have their rise.

The summits of these hills in many places attain an elevation of 1500 feet above the level of its waters, and the sources of the rivers have in some instances been ascer-



tained to be from 500 to 600 feet above their mouths. These are indeed numerous, but not remarkable for their length, although they contribute in the aggregate a vast volume to its waters.

Worthy of comparison with seas, and like them exposed to the power of storms and tempests, it exhibits in their effects the same appearances, and its raging billows lose nothing of their terror by the comparison. It is not, however, like them, affected by a periodical flux and reflux, and the only changes in its apparent level are consequent upon the spring freshets, particularly after a more than usually rigorous winter, or upon the long continuance of a strong breeze in one quarter.

The waters are remarkable for their extreme purity, which permits the bottom to be seen at extraordinary depths. That they were once salt, is by no means improbable, from the nature of the fish that inhabit them, and the marine shells that are found along the beaches or imbedded in the shores. It *has indeed* been asserted that they are so at *present* in the lowest depths.

On the north and north-east it has several islands; of these Isle Royal is the largest, measuring above 100 miles in length, by 40 in breadth.

The waters of Lake Superior are discharged through the Strait of St. Mary, or, as it is more familiarly termed, the Narrows, which are about fifty miles long, and connect it with Lake Huron. About midway between the lakes there is a rapid fall of twenty-two and a half feet in the bed of the river, causing the confined mass of waters to rage in their narrow channel with tumultuous and unceasing violence, creating a scene of confusion, which, from the noise and turmoil of the waters, and the dazzling whiteness of the surge, is not deficient in grandeur of effect, although it cannot be compared with others more worthy the term of "fall," which has been applied to this. It is called the falls of St. Mary, and has been descended by intrepid and experienced voyagers, but is generally avoided by a portage of two miles.

The boundary line between the British dominions, and those of the United States, commencing at the mouth of Pigeon River, and

running to the north of Isle Royal, is carried through the centre of the Lake and Strait of Saint Mary, leaving Sugar Island and Isle Joseph on the north, and Isle Neebish on the south, and passing between Drummond and Cockburn Islands, into the centre of Lake Huron. On Isle Joseph, a military detachment and depôt was formerly placed. It formed the most remote station on the British side of the frontier. An American detachment was also established on Drummond Island. These islands abound in geological and fossil curiosities.

Lake Huron, next to Lake Superior in size as in position, is about 240 miles long, by 220 broad. It is about thirty-two feet lower than Lake Superior, and about thirty above Lake Erie; its depth, and the character of its waters, is the same as the former.

This lake appears nearly divided by a chain of islands; the largest of which is above seventy-five miles long, by twenty-three in extreme breadth; from position it completely commands the navigation, while its deeply *indented shores* will probably be found to *fit it no less* for an important naval station.

It is called the "Grand Manitoulin," from the Indians supposing it to be consecrated to the Great Spirit, or "Manitou," and has been appropriated as the abode of scattered Indians having no particular residence, as well as refugees from the United States, a plan originating with Lord Seaton in 1835, and patronized by his successors, who have, with the consent of the natives, authorized the sale of Indian lands in certain localities, and on these islands afforded to their owners an asylum in less dangerous proximity to the civilization of the white man.

Commencing at Drummond Island, this chain of islands, remarkable for the beauty and variety of their scenery, takes its name from the largest. The Manitoulin series nearly reaches Cape Hurd, the northernmost point of Cabot's peninsula, forming an inner lake of about 250 miles in length, by fifty in extreme breadth, but rocky, and exposed to fogs, gales, and currents. This has been named Georgian Bay, and at its southern extremity, Machedash Bay, receives the waters of Lake Simcoe, by the Severn river, while the rivers watering the Huron

tract of the Canada Company, fall into it from its eastern shore ; but the inland communication thus afforded, as well as the communication between Georgian Bay and the Ottawa, by Lake Simcoe, and the Madawaska, and by the French river, with Lake Nipissing, which discharges itself into the Ottawa at Mataouin, has been already noticed. The shores of the lake, especially to the north, where the Cloche mountains rise conspicuously, exhibiting for forty miles their lofty summits, are, for the most part, barren and broken. Clay cliffs, boulders, abrupt rocks and wooded steeps, of from thirty to eighty, and one hundred feet in height, constitute their general features ; nevertheless the lands above, especially to the eastward, are of a most excellent quality. To the south is the deep bay of Saginaw.

Lake Michigan, which is united with Lake Huron by Michilimackinac, is entirely within the territories of the United States ; between the two is situated the state of Michigan, rivalling in fertility the opposing district of *Canada West*.

*The outlet of Lake Huron is the river*

St. Clair, which, flowing between high and picturesque banks, is navigable for small vessels to Lake St. Clair, into which it expands after a course of thirty miles. It is nearly circular, with a diameter of about thirty miles. The waters are generally shoal, but admitting, in the channel, the navigation of steam-boats or vessels of light draught. Its banks are low and level, and at its northern extremity, a group of low islets forms various channels for the admission of the waters of the St. Clair river.

These, with the lands in the immediate neighbourhood, which to the east are watered by the Thames and Big Bear rivers, are, as has been remarked, alluvial in their formation, and from their fertility invite the settlement of a rapidly increasing population.

The Detroit or strait, of late called Detroit River, connects Lake St. Clair with Lake Erie. The course of the St. Clair river is nearly north and south, but the Detroit assumes a semi-circular shape, ranging from south-west to south. It is twenty-nine miles long, broad and deep, and divided into two channels for more than half its

course by elongated islands; of these the largest are Grosse Isle, about eight, and Turkey Island, about five miles in length, the first on the American and the last on the British side; but the most important is Isle au Bois Blanc, the Navy Island of the western district, situated nearly opposite to Amherstburgh, on the eastern side of the boundary between the two countries, which follows a middle course down the stream, and having the deepest channel to the eastward, commands the entrance of the river, which is navigable for the vessels in use upon the lakes, and covering the harbour of Amherstburgh, affords them excellent shelter and anchorage. Detroit, on the American side of the river, is a place of importance from its trade and population, as well as its fortifications; it was taken and burnt by the British under General Brock, when General Hull and his army surrendered themselves prisoners of war in 1812. Since it was rebuilt, it has been and is still a rapidly progressing and prosperous town. The fertility and beauty of the shores of this river have already been spoken of.

Lake Erie receives the Detroit about thirty miles from its western extremity, and here the course of the chain varies from north and south to nearly east and west. The extensive promontories on its northern coast have already been noticed; and these, together with a current constantly running to the eastward, add to the difficulties of the upward navigation. It may, however, be here mentioned, that a natural channel was formed during a heavy gale through Long Point or North Foreland, close to the mainland, 300 yards wide, and from eleven to twelve feet deep, requiring nothing but the construction of a pier at the west end to secure a good channel and safe harbour on both sides. Some time since it was actually in contemplation to cut a canal near the same spot, the cost of which was estimated at 12,000*l*.

The islands on the lake, exclusively confined to the western part of it, are, Peleé Island, St. George's, La Fleur, Bass, and Cunningham. The former is remarkable as being the most southern territory in North America belonging to Great Britain.

Lake Erie is above 260 miles long, and



63 miles broad at its centre, with a circumference of 658 miles. Its position makes it the common centre of the inland navigation of North America, and perhaps the whole globe does not present one so peculiar.

Steam-boat communication having been established between the Mississippi and Alleghany, has been carried as far up the latter as Warren, and, with only slight improvements, might be extended to within three miles of Portland harbour, in latitude about  $42^{\circ} 30'$ , on the south-eastern shores of the lake. The Ohio and Pennsylvanian canals offer an immediate communication through the Ohio river, while towards the east it is now uninterrupted to the Atlantic, both by the St. Lawrence and by the Erie Canal to Albany.

On this water, during the American war, the navies of the opposing parties were often engaged, but since the peace it has been the theatre of a more honourable contest for the spread of commerce and internal communication, and now bears upon its expansive bosom numerous fleets both of steam and sailing vessels, constantly occupied in the traffic of the country, or in bearing westward

its adopted children to their future homes. The southern shores of Lake Erie are generally low, except about Lake Chateaugue, and the head waters of the Alleghany, near Portland. The only important naval stations on this coast are at Presqué-isle, opposite the North Foreland, a harbour similar in every respect to that of York, on Lake Ontario. On its south side is the town of Erie, a naval station and depôt for ship-building; on the east, Portland, Cataragus, and Buffalo, the latter rising fast into importance; and on the west, Sandusky Bay, and the Miami as well as Cunningham Island, offer naval and commercial advantages.

Lake Erie is 565 feet above the nearest tide-waters of the ocean, and 334 above the level of Lake Ontario; it is only 270 feet in depth, being by far the shallowest of these lakes, and it will therefore appear no impossibility that at some future day the larger portion of its present surface may become dry land, its greatest depth not reaching the surface of the waters of the Ontario, while that, as well as Lakes Superior and Huron reach far below the level of the sea. This will be seen more

plainly by reference to the map of the lakes facing this chapter.

As the St. Clair and Detroit channels form the only outlets of Lakes Superior and Huron, so Lake Erie discharges all its superfluous waters through the Niagara, which, commencing at its north-eastern extremity, having its course generally from south to north, is in a direct line barely twenty-eight miles, but by the bends of the river thirty-three, in length; and scarcely can any similar extent of water offer the same amount of interest, whether natural or adventitious.

Connecting as yet, if they do not always continue so, the two most important lakes in the chain with respect to the inland navigation of North America; dividing the territories of two nations the most powerful, at least commercially, on the globe; separating, even under a change of masters, lands the interests of the inhabitants of which have always been opposed, and presenting natural features of such stupendous magnificence that the world does not afford their parallel, these waters may well claim more than ordinary attention.

The Niagara first assumes the character of a river at Fort Erie; having there a breadth of one mile, below this, contracting its channel to one half, it becomes rapid opposite Black Rock, where it expands to its original width, and dividing into two channels, forms four flat islands, the last in succession being six miles and a half below Fort Erie: they are named respectively, the two smallest Squaw Islands, and the other two Snake and Strawberry Islands.

From the south point of the latter the shores diverge north-east and south-east, and encircle an island containing 11,200 acres, well wooded and fertile, and having some settlements upon it. It is twelve miles long and two miles broad, and below it is Navy Island, noted in future history as the stronghold of the American "sympathisers," and the scene of the capture and burning of the *Caroline*. It is the only one in the river belonging to England, the Commissioners having found the deepest channel to the west of the others. Navy Island lies at the foot of the west channel and north-east end of Grand Isle. From it the course of the river

is due west, and the distance to the head of the falls three miles and a half. Its breadth is rather more than one mile.

The river is navigable from Lake Erie to Chippewa, a village on the British side at the mouth of the river Welland. Here commences the portage, as that on the American side does at Fort Schlosser on the opposite bank, near which place, at Gill Creek, is a convenient harbour for small vessels navigating Lake Erie.

The shores of the river are low, and toward the eastern side of the lake more particularly so, rising but little above its level. To the east of Grand Island is Tonewanta Creek, affording depth of water for boats twelve miles from its mouth, and forming the entrance to the Erie Canal.

Below Navy Island the river forms a deep bay to the NN.E., and from Lake Erie to this place the fall is but fifteen feet, while from it to the head of the cataract, a distance of only half a mile, the fall is fifty-one feet. Here the river also rapidly contracts, the bay above being two miles across, while at the head of the falls it is barely three quarters

of a mile, and in other places does not exceed 450 yards. About half a mile above the falls, the river descending on a deeply inclined plane, its waters begin to ripple a short distance below the Welland river, and are gradually broken by their accelerated course over the rocky channel, where, accumulating their forces, they sweep along in one broad majestic current, till, divided by Goat Island, they are projected over the precipice upon which it hangs, an unbroken height of 162 feet, into the abyss below.

Goat Island divides the falls in two unequal parts; the English or Horseshoe-fall exceeding the American in breadth by more than two hundred yards, while it is surpassed by it in height thirteen feet. They form, together with the Island, the chord of an irregular arc of about 1,100 yards, the dimensions of which may be thus estimated:—

	YARDS.
The Great or Horseshoe Fall . . . . .	700
Goat Island . . . . .	330
American Fall . . . . .	375
	<hr/>
Length of arc . . . . .	1,405
	<hr/>

The American fall is again subdivided by a small island cutting off a minor portion of the waters, to which, probably from the contrast of its height to its breadth, as compared with the Great fall, the name Montmorenci has been given.

No greater contrast can be imagined than that afforded by the banks of the river below and above the falls; there, it flows smoothly between low and verdant banks smiling fruitfully under the labours of the husbandman; here, the limestone precipices sink sheer down in a dark chasm hundreds of feet below, through which the river rushes with impetuous course, foaming and boiling; the whiteness of its froth, as it breaks over the rocks which impede it, heightened by the dark depths of its whirlpools. At the base of the falls it is 1,000 feet in breadth and 200 in depth, but soon narrows to about half; yet, notwithstanding its contracted channel, the mass of waters that are forced through it, and the rapidity of the current, a ferry, by which passengers can cross in perfect safety, is established only 900 yards below the falls.

To offer a description of this stupendous effort of nature would be without the limits of the present work; and it is doubtful whether the attempt, which has so often been made, has ever produced so just an idea of the extraordinary scene as a simple detail of the facts connected with it, aiding and assisting the imagination. But yet it is certain, that however lively, and however hardly tasked, not even the imagination has ever been able to attain to it; for this is perhaps one among the few of nature's wonders, from the contemplation of which none have returned disappointed, the only drawback experienced resulting from the operations of that utilitarian spirit which, especially throughout the union, seems to take pleasure in marring the fairest features of nature, and which is here rampant.

Five miles below the falls is "the whirlpool," formed by a sudden bend of the river, where the rapid torrent is hurled against the face of the opposing precipice, recoiling with a force even more destructive than that exerted by the falls themselves, and in its reaction engulfing everything into its watery depths



It is, however, productive of one great advantage, by checking the rapidity of the water, which, subdued and chastened by the direful conflict, flows with a more tranquil course towards Lake Ontario, and affords one among the innumerable proofs to be found wherever nature has been at work on a great scale, of the superintending hand of God ordering all things in subservience to his good intentions toward man. Nine miles below it emerges from the chasm, and with a deeper tide and more moderate current, is discharged between banks of inconsiderable height into the wide expanse of the lake.

From the base of the falls to Queenstown, at the foot of the gorge, the descent of the water is 104 feet, from thence to Ontario only two. The following table will show at a glance the differences of elevation between the mouth and source of the Niagara river.

From Lake Erie to head of rapids . . .	15 feet.
Thence to head of falls . . . . .	51 „
Fall on American side . . . . .	162 „
From base to Queenstown . . . . .	104 „
<i>Thence to Lake Ontario . . . . .</i>	<i>2 „</i>

*Difference of level between the lakes* 334

This difference of 334 feet in thirty-three miles, presenting insuperable obstacles to navigation, has been overcome by the Welland Canal, as before mentioned.

Lake Ontario, the last and lowest of this wonderful chain of inland waters, is about 172 miles long by  $59\frac{1}{4}$  in extreme breadth, with a circumference of 467, and follows the same direction as Lake Erie. The depth of its waters is said to vary exceedingly, being seldom less than three or more than fifty fathoms, except in the middle, where attempts have been made with three hundred fathoms, without reaching the bottom. Its surface is 231 feet above the tide waters, at Three Rivers. This lake, better known than the others to travellers in Canada, being of necessity the path to the western districts, presents, in the variety of its shores, scenery of a highly picturesque character; the most striking points of which are the white cliffs of Toronto, and the highland called the Devil's Nose, above Presqu'île; while, to the south, "Fifty-mile-hill," so called on account of its distance from Niagara, raises its conical head above the ridge that, after

forming the barrier over which the river is precipitated, stretches away to the eastward. Through this, near the centre of the lake, the Genessee forces its way from the south, broken into the romantic falls which bear the same name.

The harbours on this lake have already been noticed as naval stations; the islands lie principally towards its eastern extremity, about the entrances of the two most important, Kingston and Sacket's harbours, situated on its opposite shores.

The waters of the Ontario, like those of the other lakes, are limpid and transparent, and suitable for domestic uses; but they are sometimes covered with a yellowish scum in the month of June, which renders them inapplicable to that purpose for the time. Here is also seen the Mirage which, as well as on the shores of the Mediterranean and in the desert, produces such extraordinary optical delusions.

This lake is subject to violent squalls, which raise waves of formidable appearance, but not often greater than can be overcome by the exercise of ordinary skill and presence of

mind. The connexion of its waters with the Ottawa, by the Rideau canal, has been already noticed.

The eastern extremity of the lake assumes a highly diversified character; the discharge is known by the names of Iroquois and Cataragui, and flows in so broad and full a stream for thirty-nine miles, as to have the appearance of an extended lake. It is studded throughout this distance with islands numerous enough to entitle it to the indefinite appellation of the Lake of the Thousand Islands. Their number has, however, been ascertained to be one thousand six hundred and ninety-two, forming an intricate labyrinth of every variety of form, shape, and appearance; and in conjunction with the varied channels of the waters, and the highly cultivated and well peopled district through which it flows, presenting a *tout ensemble* more pleasing than can well be imagined, and realizing the dreams of romance, or the imaginative descriptions of Eastern story. From hence to Prescott the course of the river is still diversified by islands, and wears a most pleasing aspect, and to this point it is navigable. Here,

however, the rapids commence, and its current to Montreal is only practicable for canoes, batteaux, rafts, &c. The most difficult and picturesque of these rapids is the "Long Sault," above Cornwall, forty-six miles from Montreal. It is about nine miles long, and intersected by several islands, through the channels formed by which its waters rush with great impetuosity, at the rate of twenty-seven miles an hour, until, arriving at the lower extremity, they take a sudden leap over a slight precipice, and from this the rapid derives its name.

Above Montreal the lakes of St. Francis and St. Louis, broad expansions of the river, studded with islands, present somewhat similar features below to those already described above the rapids, the former being twenty-five miles long by five and a half broad, and the latter twelve miles long by six broad. The shores of both are low, the latter being formed by the junction of the Ottawa with the St. Lawrence; into this merges the lake of the Two Mountains at the mouth of the former river, in extreme length twenty-four miles, but varying in breadth from one to six.

At the confluence are the islands of Montreal, Jesus, Bizard, and Perrot, already described.

Between lakes St. Francis and St. Louis is a singular scene, termed the Cascades; where an extraordinary agitation of the waters is observable, and waves thrown up to a height of several feet, exhibiting nearly the same effect as would be produced by a violent tempest, the result probably of a sudden fall in the bed of the river, precipitating its waters with great velocity between the islands on a hollow and rocky bottom. A canal, 500 yards in length, enables boats to avoid its dangers.

Below Lake St. Louis is the beautiful Sault St. Louis, with the picturesque Indian village of Chawanaga on the south (memorable in modern Canadian history as the scene of the capture of a body of insurgents by the inhabitants, as has been before related, while assembled at divine worship on the Lord's day) and La Chine on the north; it is very violent and dangerous, but the La Chine Canal obviates its difficulties.

The shores of the river from Montreal to Quebec have been already described in their

general features; to this point ships of any burden can ascend. About forty-five miles below it the river expands into lake St. Peter, similar in most respects to the others. A group of islands covers about nine miles of its western surface.

At Three Rivers the tide is first felt, and below it are the rapids of Richelieu, where the rocky bed of the river so breaks the stream, and the contracted channel so increases its velocity, that a proper time of tide and due caution are required to secure safety in passing them.

From Montreal to this point, as has been noticed, the shores are low; from hence to Quebec they gradually increase in altitude, and produce a very striking effect.

At Quebec the depth of water in the basin is twenty-eight fathoms, with a tide rising eighteen feet, and at the spring twenty-three to twenty-four. The river is here 1314 yards wide, but the basin is two miles across, and from hence gradually extending till, at the Mingan Settlements, on the Labrador coast, it reaches to above 100 miles in the gulf of *the same name*.

The waters of the St. Lawrence begin to be brackish twenty-one miles below Quebec, increasing in saline properties to Kamouraska, seventy-five miles lower down. Of the two channels formed by the Isle of Orleans, below Quebec, the southern is always used by shipping.

Beyond this are several others, as Goose Island, Crane Island, &c.; these two are under cultivation, and remarkable for the extent and richness of their natural meadow pasturage. The others are uninhabited.

Beyond Riviere du Sud, where the stream is eleven miles broad, is the remarkable channel, the Traverse, formed by Isle aux Coudres, the shoal St. Roch, and the English bank, of only 1320 yards broad, although the river swells to thirteen miles: it requires a proper state of the tide to navigate it securely. Until lately it was the only one in use; but two others, sufficiently practicable, have been re-opened nearer the middle of the river.

The Isle aux Coudres is well cultivated, and below it in succession appear those named Kamouraska, the Pilgrims, Hare Island, and



a cluster well known as a naval rendezvous, called the Brandy Pots; they are reckoned 103 miles from Quebec. Lower still is Green Island, on which a lighthouse is erected, and light displayed from the 15th of April to the 10th of December; near Green Island is Red Island; and a little lower down, the Saguenay pours its tributary waters into the St. Lawrence; remarkable, even among American rivers, for their depth and volume.

The Isle of Bic, noted for its good anchorage, comes next, then Isle St. Barnabié, and Point aux Pères: here the river being clear, the gulf pilots resign their charge of vessels. Below Point aux Pères are two remarkable mountains, called the Paps of Matane, and nearly opposite, the bold promontory of Mont Pelée, where the river, from twenty-five miles, by a sudden northerly trending of the coast, becomes at the Seven Islands increased to seventy-three in breadth: below this, the Island of Anticosti indicates the mouth of the river. It is in length 125 miles, and in breadth 30, containing about 1,530,000 square acres. It has neither bay nor harbour, and the reefs which extend

from it have been found highly dangerous for vessels. The correct surveys, however, recently taken by Captain Bayfield, and the two lighthouses erected upon it, will have diminished them much. Upon it are stations where provisions and other necessaries are deposited for the shipwrecked mariners; and boards erected on the beach, giving directions to them. The surface of the island is not high, but rises in well defined peaks; it is generally covered with a dwarf growth of fir-trees.

The other islands in the lower part of the St. Lawrence are of no importance further than by adding to the diversity and increasing the effect of the scenery.

Beyond, the gulf extends to above 300 miles in width, having the Island of Newfoundland, separated from the coast of Labrador by the Strait of Belle Isle on its north-eastern, and those of Prince Edward's and Cape Breton, divided by Northumberland Strait and the Gut of Canso from the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, at its south-eastern extremity, to the marine topography of which its description therefore more properly belongs.

The conclusion of the topographical account of the province, by an extended notice of the "great river of Canada" and its parent lakes, affords a fitting opportunity for some mention of the geological features of the great basin in which that mighty system of waters is contained, as well as its physical peculiarities.

The prevailing rocks on its northern side are granite, gneiss, &c., which, extending westward to the head waters of the Mississippi and tributaries of the Missouri, encircle Lake Superior, on whose southern shore a narrow strip of sandstone is superincumbent. This is extended to the Manitoulin Islands, where limestone commences, and appears again at the south-eastern extremity of Georgian Bay; whence, stretching across the isthmus which separates it from Lake Ontario, by Lake Simcoe and the Trent valley to the Lake of the Thousand Islands, it trends to the south, and impinging upon the great Alleghany coal field, is at length absorbed into the chain of mountains of that name. Below this, sandstone prevails, as far as Montreal, where the original series reappears, and usurps both

banks of the river throughout its whole extent, although covered, especially on the south bank, by rich alluvial deposit.

The triangular district between Lake Huron and Lake Ontario has been already mentioned as for the most part alluvial; but to the north of it, bounding the table land of Lake Simcoe, and the Trent Lakes on the south, a range of the Silurian series follows a serpentine course to the Niagara, and, developed in the steep escarpment of Queenstown heights, stretches across the river, and forming the southern boundary of Lake Ontario, unites with the northern part of the Alleghany coal basin. Another series, of a similar character, commencing at the falls of St. Mary, encircles the Lakes Michigan and Huron to the south, and includes the Michigan territory situated between them, with its sandstone, carboniferous limestone, and coal, in regular succession, and forms the northern shore of Lake Erie, whose southern boundary is the sandstone of the Alleghany coal series.

The stratification at Niagara will be seen on referring to the maps and diagram annexed to this chapter, originally adopted by

Mr. Lyell to illustrate his views respecting the origin of the falls.

Without entering into a discussion foreign in every respect to the object of this work, it may not be improper to remark, that in developing favourite theories, scientific men are but too liable to overlook the inferences to be deduced from facts obvious to the most moderate capacity. The gradual rise of the land from the falls to Queenstown heights, near forty feet, and the existence of an old watercourse 300 feet above the present bed of the river, which Mr. Lyell has himself pointed out, might serve to show that greater powers, at least of water, have been formerly at work, than are now apparent, and should make us hesitate before expressing any opinion as to the rapidity with which the now usually admitted recession of the falls may have proceeded, more particularly, as, although calculating it himself at the rate of only one foot per annum, he yet admits that Goat Island has lost several acres in area within the last four years, and that this great waste neither is nor has been a temporary accident.

Mr. Roy, a resident in the country, was the first to advocate the opinion that this basin had formerly been an enormous inland sea, and although geologists may reject such a conclusion, certain it is, that to do so, they must account for the existence of appearances, strongly corroborative of it, and the production of which must have required far more extraordinary exertions of the powers of nature.

The presence of marine animals and shells indicate, at least, the former saltness of the waters of the lakes, although accurate ad-measurements can alone supply data sufficient to satisfy the impartial observer, as to their entire character. In the absence of this, however, it may not be uninteresting to observe how far later observations appear to confirm Mr. Roy's opinion.

When examining the hills to the north of Toronto, which form the watershed between the tributaries of Lakes Ontario and Simcoe, and the southern boundary of the Trent valley, Mr. Lyell observed two ridges; the first rising from a base 108 feet above Lake Ontario, in a steep slope of twenty to thirty feet, the existence of which, eastward and

westward, might easily be traced by its distinguishing belt of dark green pine trees; while a mile and a half inland, another ridge, having its base 208 feet above the lake, rises abruptly from fifty to seventy feet; and two miles and a half further north, five miles distant from the lake, a third presents a scarcely perceptible terrace, of about ten feet in height.

These he was satisfied existed continuously, and with an uniformity of level in their base lines. Mr. Roy found corresponding ridges on the northern shores of Lake Erie, and the valley of the Ottawa.

The highest of these ridges, in number eleven, is about 680 feet above the lake, and the watershed between it and Lake Simcoe, 762 feet; from whence the descent to that lake is 282 feet, on which the ridges correspond to those on the southern slope.\*

\* Recent barometrical observations give the following elevations:—

	Above Lake Ontario.
Bond Lake, at the height of land between Lake Ontario and Huron . . . . .	783 ft.
Holland landing, Lake Simcoe . . . . .	498
Penetanguishine . . . . .	365

*See Journal of Royal Geographical Society, 1846, p. 263, et seq.*

It has been ascertained that similar slopes and ridges exist on the shores of Lake Superior, fifty feet above the level of its waters, which are about 400 feet above those of Lake Ontario; showing a greater height in the ridges on the shores of that lake than has been observed on those of Lake Superior.

Now the hills which form the watershed to the north of Lake Superior rise 1500 feet above its surface, and are supposed to form a continuous line, dividing the head waters of the rivers falling into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and among them of the Ottawa, from those flowing northward into Hudson's Bay, and continuing through Labrador.

The highest sources of the rivers falling into Lake Superior have been stated as about 500 feet above its waters, and the high lands to the south rise above 400 feet, so that there appears nothing to prevent this vast basin having once contained the volume of water thus indicated in breadth, if not in height, before drainage or upheaval of the soil had left it in its present state,



though the latter supposition seems quite unnecessary.

But why, it may be asked, enter at all upon a subject confessedly so obscure, or seek the origin of those natural features whose gigantic outlines mock the efforts of our puny minds? Because, by so doing, their greatness and our littleness are best to be perceived, and we shall more readily attain to that modesty which becomes the creature when labouring to obtain an insight into the workings of the Creator; and those who offer other explanations of the natural features presented in the face of any country than Nature herself seems to indicate, are at least concerned to show that the more apparently simple solution of the problem presents insurmountable difficulties, before they seek the more abstruse; and that the known period of the physical existence of the world cannot suffice to produce the changes apparent upon its surface, before they speculate upon the number of those "ages of ages," which existed in foregone eternity, and witnessed the birth of time, that are required for the purpose.

It is, however, generally admitted that the waters of North America are gradually diminishing. Not only is sufficient evidence of this afforded along their shores, but is apparent in themselves, and has become a serious impediment to commerce. In 1845, at Kingston, the water was, at the commencement of the frost, three feet below the ordinary level.

The general course of the lakes and valleys of North America being north-east or south-west, and the rainy winds having their origin in the latter quarter, it has been suggested that a cycle of north-easterly winds would rob the lakes and rivers of much of their water, which a return of south-westerly winds would restore, and some have stated this to occur at intervals of about seven years; but no one can have examined the newly settled districts in that country, without having frequently observed the channels of small rivers and streams deserted by those waters, whose place will know them no more; and when we consider the aggregate amount these must once have contributed to the contents of the lakes and larger rivers, the gradual diminution of

the waters of the continent may be easily accounted for. Lake Erie is undoubtedly becoming shallower, insomuch that the harbour of Kingston is obstructed by sandbanks, of recent formation, and this decrease in its level is supposed by some to be consequent on the diminution of the rocks at the Falls of Niagara—indeed Lake Erie has varied five feet, and Ontario as much as eight.

The waters of those lakes impregnated with “aluminous and calcareous matter,” are fresh, bright, and sparkling; those of the St. Lawrence are blue in colour, but of the same character, and contain so large a proportion of those ingredients, that vessels in which it is heated become rapidly furred and incrustated. “Ottawa’s tide” is, as has been before remarked, brown. The preponderance of lime as an ingredient in the waters of the St. Lawrence affects those newly arrived in the province, not unfrequently to an inconvenient extent.

Canada is essentially a blue country, the waters generally of that colour, and the sky “intensely blue,” insomuch that the atmo-

sphere imparts a faint blue tint to all distant objects, giving a softness and delicacy, as well as a depth and brilliancy, to the tone of the landscape, the effect of which is wonderfully beautiful when the woods assume the rich and varied livery of autumn.

The peculiar dryness of the atmosphere in the western districts is a constant theme of admiration, contrasting advantageously with the humidity of the country at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, &c. The extremes of cold in winter, and heat in summer, ranging from a tropical to an arctic temperature, have not, on this account, so serious an effect on the animal economy as might at first be supposed; for though exposure to them is frequently serious in its results, yet with ordinary precaution they are not more felt than the moderate changes of European seasons, and it must be remembered that the bounty of Nature has provided in abundance the means of counteracting her own severities.

These are no doubt consequent in a great

measure, the one on the proximity of the enormous body of water contained in the Great Lakes, and the other on the gradual rise of the land from the Gulf of Mexico to their southern shore, which does not much exceed 600 feet in the whole distance, offering no opposition to the warm winds from the tropics, nor affording any means for their refrigeration.

Fogs are not unfrequently of great density on the upper lakes, and the mirage offers to the admiration of the spectator its beautiful illusions: the brilliancy of the heavenly bodies is unrivalled in any climate, both moon and stars shining not only with intense lustre, but apparently increased volume; while the bright gleam of the passing meteors, and coruscations of the Northern Lights, add greatly to the beauty of the nocturnal heavens. The thunder storms rival in violence those of the tropical regions.

The climate is undoubtedly healthy in the extreme, the only diseases prevalent being fever and ague, which are generally consequent on the proximity of newly cleared

lands, lakes, or swamps. In the former case they might be prevented by securing a good drainage before clearing, an operation that would doubtless be looked upon by backwoodsmen as savouring of insanity, but which would well repay the expense and toil of effecting it, by the security it would afford against diseases which are so apt to become unpleasant accompaniments to a life in the woods. There can be no doubt that the gradual draining of the lands will also effect an amelioration of the intensity both of heat and cold; of this evidence has already been afforded, not indeed in any reduction of the extremes of temperature, which still range from less than nothing to above one hundred degrees, but in the longer duration of mild seasons.

In Canada East, the winter extends from the end of November to the end of April, and during the whole of this period, the "sleighting" season lasts, while in Canada West it continues scarcely two months; and the same operations may be commenced in the latter in February, which must be delayed in the former till May. Between these

extremes, difference of latitude and situation afford every variety of mean.

The extraordinary rapidity with which the warm sun, acting upon a fertile soil, saturated with the melted snow, causes vegetation to

“ Spring to life bedecked with merry green,”

especially in the Western districts, must be seen to be conceived; not unfrequently a fortnight will suffice to clothe the woods and fields with luxuriant verdure, and in one short month the comparatively dreary garb of winter will have been succeeded by the bright and cheering colours in which spring delights so bountifully to apparel the vegetable world.

To the freshness of spring the rich weight of summer foliage succeeds with equal rapidity, and as the sun gains power and the earth loses every trace of its former bondage, flowers of varied hue, and the many fruits indigenous to the country, burst forth in spontaneous abundance, and the woods and waters that during the reign of the Ice King had in comparative silence done homage to the sombre grandeur of his presence, become

vocal with sound and instinct with life, affording on every side examples of industry and gratitude, of happiness and contentment : all animated nature, from the merry grasshopper, busy humming bird, and active but mischievous squirrel, to the more apparently unimportant works of the Creator, labouring in their vocation, looking to Him for the meat which He supplies in due season, and showing forth His praise in the fulfilment of those objects for which He created them, and which, doubtless, although we perceive it not, occupy, individually, positions of equal importance in the economy of the universe.

Summer, thus matured in its commencement, maintains its rule until, after a short struggle, it is again usurped by winter; the season of autumn being distinguishable only in the varied richness of colour assumed by the vegetable kingdom, a variety of richness that far surpasses anything to be witnessed in the old world, and by the gentle admonitions of its preparatory frosts.

To the colonist each season brings its labours, its profits, and its pleasures; of



which latter winter has, perhaps, more than her due share; the beautiful track formed on the frozen snow offering a most powerful temptation to locomotion, and indeed frequently affording the means, unattainable by any other, of visiting friends, who although perhaps among his nearest neighbours, yet live, in more senses than one, indeed afar off.

Formerly the winters were altogether devoted to festivity, and are so even now, to a great extent, by the French "habitants;" among the Saxon races, however, although hospitality and hilarity abound on all sides, and more especially mark this season, yet the labours of clearing the ground and making such preparation for the ensuing spring as the weather will permit are carefully performed, to their great advantage when it arrives; nor does the lively tinkle of the sleigh bells sound less harmonious in their ears from the recollection that the occasion has not been neglected.

Beautiful at all seasons, but perhaps most characteristically so when bound in "dark winter's icy chain," the scenery of Canada

fully satisfies the eye of the spectator; it may, however, be doubted whether it can be called picturesque, or whether a just idea of it can be attained by the inspection of drawings and sketches, except it be in very minute detail; for the proportion of the elevation of the land to its superficies is so small, and the general features of the country and its productions are on such an extended and magnificent scale, that attempts to depict them fail in their intention, from want of a relative scale in the mind of the beholder.

The greatest elevation being only about 1,500 feet, affords a comparative scale of 1 vertical to about 16,000 horizontal; so that even Niagara, the "thundering water" itself, when estimated by it, sinks into utter insignificance; indeed when taken by itself the same rule applies, and its great extent deprives it of the effect that would otherwise be due to its elevation: in short, to arrive at any estimate of the gigantic workings of nature in this country, it is necessary to examine them both separately and collectively, and it will then become apparent that if they have not

been appreciated, it has been, not from deficiency in them, but from the impossibility of containing objects so extensive in our limited field of vision.

## CHAPTER VI.

## PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

THE history and topography of Canada afford satisfactory evidence of the truth of the position assumed in the first chapter of this volume, viz. that nothing is requisite to the attainment of the summit of power and prosperity by this magnificent colony, but the development of its natural resources by increase of its population ; and that, although the rapidity with which this may be effected must depend in a great degree on the judgment displayed in distribution, it is in the end most certain.

With reference to this it has been remarked that particular districts offer greater advantages for immediate settlement than others, although scarcely any can be found where the labours of the industrious would not be sufficiently rewarded : of these the most worthy of notice appear to be—

1. The head waters of the Ottawa and Trent rivers, as the future channel for deve-

lopment of the inland navigation of the province. The shores of Lake Huron as the advanced stage of its progress westward, and the Saguenay, as the outlet of the district surrounding it, and the probable future depôt for European produce.

2. The territory bordering upon the Maine and New Brunswick boundary, on account of its political importance, consequent on its intermediate position, as well as that of the State of Vermont and New Hampshire, the fertility of which offers an additional inducement.

3. The Gaspé district, for fisheries and coal, and the Ottawa, Trent, and especially the shores of Lake Superior, for minerals and metals.

4. For the pursuits of agriculture the triangular district between Lakes Erie and Huron, and the Huron tract of the Canada Company, perhaps afford greater advantages than any, but by no means to the entire exclusion of many other parts; the fertility of which is only second, if it be at all inferior, to theirs.

And as topography points out the most desirable positions for future location, so does

history present to us every encouragement to their occupation: indeed the later history of Canada is but that of successful emigration; and to the credit of the untiring energies of our race be it recorded, that its success may be dated from the presence of British ingredients, whether of forethought in planning, or determination in executing.

It is true, indeed, that the French Canadians had extended their settlements over the valley of the St. Lawrence, but latterly, under their influence, the colony seemed rather to retrograde than progress: while, since it has been a British province, its onward march towards prosperity has been not only steady, but rapid beyond all precedent, even in the headlong impetuosity of the western progress of the United States.

The lessons which the past teaches us cannot fail to be profitable for the future; and among them, perhaps, none is more striking or useful than that to be derived from the comparison of the different methods pursued under the two governments in their attempts to people the province. Estimated by their magnitude, they show their mutual

appreciation of the importance of the colony, and by their results their relative fitness for the purpose.

The various efforts of the French have been already detailed, and when, after more than one narrow escape from entire failure, the last and most important was organized, the narrow-minded policy by which it was directed, in the exclusion of all but one class from the emigration, made it fall far short of the effect contemplated; so that, although French settlements were extended from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to that of the Mississippi, yet wanting the true progressive impetus, and like exotics requiring unnatural care and protection, their blossom had little promise, and their untimely fruit withered.

After the lapse of a century, so little had the colony realised the anticipations of the home government, that the increase of population was only as twelve to one; while under the more enlarged and liberal system pursued since its annexation to the British dominions, it has in sixty years increased in the ratio of twenty-five to one; a progress which, if it does not remove all objections raised against

it, must at least be admitted as most satisfactory by comparison.

Of the various efforts for colonization made since the establishment of British rule, the history of the Canada Company affords, perhaps, the best illustration, as the means pursued have been for the most part similar, not less to those of government than of individuals, as Colonel Talbot and others;\* and more especially as whatever hindrance it may have been to the latter, it has been of important assistance to the former, and therefore may fairly lay claim to be noticed with it.

This Company was established by royal incorporation, on the 19th August, 1826, under the provisions of an act passed to authorize the sale of one moiety of the clergy reserves, with a capital of one million sterling. It immediately entered into extensive engagements for the purchase of reserved and other lands in the Upper Province, and shortly became possessed of 2,300,000 acres: of these 1,300,000 are held in dispersed blocks of from 200 to 2,000, 10,000, and in some cases from 12,000 to 14,000 acres; the residue

\* This officer colonized a large tract of land on the northern shore of Lake Erie.



being comprised in one vast tract on the shores of Lake Huron, which was granted in lieu of one moiety of the clergy reserves scattered through the townships of the province.

In consideration of these extensive grants, the following payments were to be made by the Company, viz.—

	£
On the first of July, 1827 . . .	20,000
Three following years, each . . .	15,000
1831 . . . . .	16,000
1832 . . . . .	17,000
1833 . . . . .	18,000
1834 . . . . .	19,000
1835 . . . . .	20,000

And thereafter the sum of 20,000*l.* annually, until sixteen years shall have expired from 1st July, 1826; at which time the amount would, consequently, have reached 295,000*l.* sterling.

Of this the Company was authorized to apply 45,000*l.* in the construction of works of public utility within the Huron tract, and to this large additions have been made from its private resources, so that it may be presumed that no means have been wanting to promote the desired end; and we find that district, under its auspices, among the most flourishing in the province, if it be not in advance of others. Of this some estimate *may be formed* from the account already

given. Of its future prospects it is almost impossible to predict too liberally.

From the amount thus received the expenses of the civil list of the province have been liquidated, leaving a considerable surplus applicable to local improvement; the yearly payments, on this account, give some idea of the relative value of money, and are therefore subjoined, in their original form.

	£
To the Lieutenant Governor . . .	3,000
— Chief Justice . . . . .	1,500
— Two Puisne Judges . . . . .	1,800
— Surveyor General . . . . .	300
— Five Executive Council . . . . .	500
— Clerk of Crown and Council . . . . .	200
— Receiver General . . . . .	300
— Secretary and Registrar . . . . .	300
— Attorney General . . . . .	300
— Solicitor General . . . . .	100

The success of the Company has enabled it to fulfil its engagements, and the population located on its lands are among the most loyal and prosperous in the province.

On the union of the province under Mr. Poulett Thomson, afterwards Lord Sydenham, the sources of income were consolidated, amounting in all to 430,000*l.*; being

now principally derived from the customs duties. They were charged,

1. With the expenses of collection.
2. With interest of public debt at the time of union.
3. With payments to be made to the clergy of the United Churches of England and Ireland, and of the Church of Scotland, and to ministers of other Christian denominations usually paid out of the public revenue before or at the time of passing the act.
4. With the sum of 45,000*l*.
5. Do. do. 30,000*l*.
6. Other charges already made on the public revenue.

The sums of 45,000*l*. and 30,000*l*. respectively, were thus appropriated:—

	£
Governor . . . . .	7,000
Lieutenant do. . . . .	1,000

UPPER CANADA.

One Chief Justice . . . . .	1,500
Four Puisne Judges at 900 <i>l</i> . . . . .	3,600
Vice Chancellor . . . . .	1,125

LOWER CANADA.

One Chief Justice, Quebec . . . . .	1,500
Three Puisne Judges at 900 <i>l</i> . . . . .	2,700
One Chief Justice Montreal . . . . .	1,100
Three Puisne Judge, ditto . . . . .	2,700
One Resident Judge, Three Rivers . . . . .	900
One Judge, inferior District Gaspé . . . . .	500
One ditto ditto St. Francis . . . . .	500
Pensions to Judges, Salaries of Attorney and Solicitor General	20,875

45,000

	£
Civil Secretaries, with their officers	8,000
Provincial ditto ditto .	3,000
Receiver General ditto .	3,000
Inspector General ditto .	2,000
Executive Council, seven . . .	3,000
Board of Works . . . . .	2,000
Emigrant Agent . . . . .	700
Pensions . . . . .	5,000
Contingencies . . . . .	3,300
	<hr/>
	30,000
	<hr/>

By the Act of Union the government of Canada was committed to one Legislative Council, and one Assembly; whose acts, having received the sanction of the Crown, become binding within the province. An Executive Council of seven is appointed to assist the Governor. These form the administration, and are, at present, irresponsible as far as the colony is concerned.

The Legislative Council is summoned by the Governor, by writ under the great seal, and at present consists of thirty-four members, eighteen from the western, and fourteen from the eastern districts. The Speaker is likewise appointed or removed by him at pleasure; a prerogative which, as that officer

has a casting vote, is of no little importance. In it no business can be transacted except ten members be present. The qualifications required for a member are, that he should be of the full age of twenty-one years, and a natural born or legally naturalized subject of the British crown, for which latter an act of the Imperial Parliament or provincial legislature is requisite. For it the leading men in talents and education, no less than in station and property, are generally selected. The tenure of office is for life, but subject to vacation by resignation, by absence without permission of the Crown for two successive sessions, or by taking any oath of allegiance to, or becoming a subject or citizen of, or acquiring the rights and immunities of a citizen of any foreign power, or becoming bankrupt, or taking the benefit of the act for the relief of insolvent debtors, or becoming a public defaulter, or being convicted of felony or any infamous crime.

The legislative assembly forms the popular element in the representation; to it every county and riding sends one member, as well as the towns of Kingston, Brockville,

Hamilton, Cornwall, Niagara, London, Bytown, in the western division, and Three Rivers and Sherbrook in the eastern; while the cities of Montreal, Quebec, and Toronto, send two members each: it numbers eighty-four members, of which each division returns half. The suffrage by which these are elected is nearly universal; every possessor of a freehold of the annual value of forty shillings, and every one paying 10*l.* yearly rent, having the privilege of voting.

The qualification of members was fixed at the *bond fide* possession of lands held in fief or roture, as the case may be, of the value of 500*l.* sterling, over and above all mortgages or incumbrances affecting the same, and to be so returned upon his own declaration; but a false declaration is open to the punishment of perjury. The members are elected for four years; and upon first assembling, proceed to the election of a Speaker, who has a casting vote. The presence of twenty members is necessary to the despatch of business.

The parliament of the province thus constituted must be assembled every year, but

the time and place of assembly and duration of session are dependent on the judgment of the Governor. All members must take the oath of allegiance, or make affirmation, if legally permitted to do so, to the same effect.

From the establishment of the present Government the English language became the only legal medium of communication, and, consequently, it is used in all laws and official documents. This will doubtless tend much to the amalgamation of the French and English races, as will also other provisions made at the same time; namely, The securing the privileges of the Roman Catholic clergy, by confirming an Act made in their behalf in the reign of George IV. as already mentioned, and of the clergy of the Church of England, by making the consent of the Imperial Parliament necessary to the legality of any bill affecting their interests, or those of the ministers of any other denominations, either with respect to their forms of worship, or their temporal rights, privileges, or possessions. To this was added the declaration, that the Crown and Imperial Parliament would not impose any duty or

assessment on the colony except for the regulation of commerce, and that the net produce of such duties should be always applied to the use of the colony in the same manner as taxes authorized by the colonial legislature; and, moreover, the Crown resigned all its hereditary revenues in the province, accepting in lieu the sums of 45,000*l.* and 30,000*l.* already mentioned, as applied to the purposes of the colonial government.

It will thus appear, that under British government, not only has colonization been carried on with success, as regards increase of population, but that this has been accompanied by a corresponding increase of revenue;—an increase which promises yearly augmentation, as the natural resources of the colony become developed. Indeed, nothing but the immediate proximity of so uncertain a neighbour as the United States could necessitate or authorize any expense beyond what it could well afford for its own government.

The result of the insurrections and piratical incursions of 1837 and 1838, have sufficiently proved that these expenses are not incurred except for defensive purposes; for



whatever scum political agitation may have raised, it is no more to be considered an indication of the real character of the people than the waves which break the surface of their lakes are of the tranquillity of the mighty depths below.

And, indeed, if we consider that these troubles were caused by the attempt to subvert English institutions,—that the leaders in them were either French Canadians, who, educated in their colleges, considered anything but “professional” avocations beneath them, and yet were unable to obtain such a maintenance as they desired, either by law or physic,—and to whom therefore every political change afforded promise of advantage, or a few American “sympathizers,” and their still fewer disciples in the province, we shall have sufficient proof that it is to the exclusion of the elements which they represented that we must look for the future prosperity of the colony; and a due consideration of the facts of the case, cannot fail to satisfy all that their strength will not be found in exaggerated excitement, but in *quietness and confidence*.

Still, in contemplating the history of Canada, and the relations which exist between it and the United States, we cannot but esteem them not a little singular; and if an illustration of them were desired, none perhaps could be found more apt than that afforded by General Brock's monument on Queenstown Heights.

Few men, in proportion to the opportunities afforded them, have done better service, or have deserved a more lasting memorial, and accordingly a monument was erected, as has been duly related;—but let us mark the sequel.

An American “sympathizer,” by name Lett, who may thus, like the incendiary of Ephesus, have preserved his memory to posterity,\* under cover of night, attempted, and partially effected its destruction by gunpowder; and although amenable to the laws of his own country for offences committed against them, and to those of nations for this, still walks at liberty, and glories in his shame.

\* Herostratus burnt the Temple of Diana for that purpose, B.C. 356.

Let then the tottering monument of the Hero of Canada—for the fame of Brock is enshrined in every heart, as his name is on every tongue—proclaim to all, that under monarchical institutions, on one side of the border, are found a delicacy of offending, and more than paternal mildness towards offenders; while on the other, a democracy has developed in inverse proportion a morbid sensibility to insult, and an unscrupulous aptitude for aggression, and it is made apparent that in its vocabulary, liberty as much authorizes the attainment of the possessions of others, as the preservation of its own, in either case without reference to the means employed, and that equality is, like the Irishman's reciprocity, all of one side—in short, a return to

“The good old rule, the simple plan,  
That they should take who have the power,  
And they should keep who can.”

This is further illustrated by the affair of the *Caroline*, and the all but universal outcry raised against the violation of American territory, while the piratical incursions of citizens of the United States have been applauded

by the majority throughout that country, and the destroyers of public monuments and murderers of peaceful inhabitants of a country in amicable relations with them, stalk at large unexecrated by the people, and unattached by the Government; while not only is the so called tyrannical monarchy willing to receive the weakness of their executive as an excuse, however insufficient, but to express regret for the necessary violation of their territory by its officers, although the one was the result of disorder requiring coercion, and the other of order commanding our best sympathies.

It must, not, however, be forgotten that those aggressions were consequent not so much on any direct evil intention on the part of a few, as the overweening confidence in the merits of democratical institutions so loudly proclaimed by the many, and which, generated in republican vanity, has led to the claim by them of the monopoly of the whole continent of America, to the exclusion of every European power, and of Great Britain in particular.

This fallacy can perhaps only be removed

by experience and knowledge, and when they shall have been instructed by the uses of adversity, may cease to operate. But as it has already been the cause of aggression, and may again interfere with the peace of the country, it is satisfactory to know that the stake of the loyal in Canada will be preserved. For this there are ample means provided. A recent writer, whose opportunities of information are most ample, thus enumerates them: 7 companies of artillery, 11 regiments of infantry, 3 troops of provincial cavalry, and a Negro company on the frontier, of 100 men, constitute a regular army of 8,000 effective men, a number equal to that of the United States.

The militia of the province muster 140,000, and of these about 5000 are immediately effective, as the rest are on any emergency. Of their character it is unnecessary to speak, or to contrast them with those of the democracy; it may be sufficient to record the confession of an enemy, that any attempt upon Canada with less than 100,000 men must prove a failure.

Moreover, Quebec is impregnable, and its

arsenal affords abundance of military stores ; Montreal strongly fortified ; Kingston and Toronto secure against surprise ; the frontier sufficiently protected by forts, and the country no longer so thinly populated as to invite aggression, but affording a sufficient number of hearts and arms willing and able to chastise it.

It must also be remembered that the systematic oppression of the slaves and native Indians by the United States, cries aloud for vengeance, and their ignorance will point out no avenger but themselves, or men like themselves ; and that while the south and west are exposed to their attacks, over a long detail of frontier, incapable of protection, the Atlantic sea-board lies open to the aggressions of the British navy, which by sea and river would bear succours and supplies in aid of the loyal Colonists. But, in truth, such contest for the empire of the western world cannot be contemplated without shuddering. The spectacle would be sad enough if it only exhibited the opposition of republican energy and monarchical firmness, and that in

brethren ; but the additional elements of destruction afforded by African cruelty and Indian impassibility—and in such an event they would want no stimulants—make it frightful. How, then, is it to be avoided ?

Under the divine providence, by the spread of internal communication, and the development of the natural resources of the colony ; by increasing the number and importance of the commercial relations between the two countries, and by improving the means of communication with England. And to these, the army now maintained in the colony contributes in no small degree, not only by the money circulated for its support, but by the diffusion of English habits, manners, and modes of thinking, and by the connexions formed, not unfrequently of the most intimate nature, between its members and the inhabitants, affording them a present proof of the truth so often insisted on, that in English influence is only to be found the germs of future prosperity, and putting in the strongest light the anomalous *character* of those who may still desire to *oppose it*, or risk the tangible and present

for a prospective, and most probably visionary advantage.

But there is one most important among the "things that make for peace," which must not be overlooked—viz. the Church: the Established Church of England and Ireland, even in Canada, where that epithet is scarcely appropriate, is essentially loyal and constitutional; and as the flames of anarchy and rebellion were originally lighted by itinerant incendiaries, and stimulated by the breath of schism, so were they in a great measure allayed, if not extinguished, by the efforts of resident clergy, and the effects of Catholic doctrine; not, indeed, that the more orthodox dissenters were wanting to themselves and their country, or derelict of their duty at the crisis, but that the necessary tendency of sectarianism was then most apparent, when its extreme sections were in immediate and unholy alliance with republican violence, fraud, and faction.

The following testimony to the truth of this, as respects the Church, is afforded by a recent writer.

*"In the various political troubles which*



have arisen, at different times, there was *one* quality in which the members of the Church were always conspicuous—that of loyalty: wherever they are found, they are as it were a garrison against sedition and rebellion; every holy spire that rises among the dark woods of Canada, stands over a stronghold for the British crown, and every minister who labours in his remote and ill-rewarded calling, is a faithful and zealous subject; the feelings and interests of loyalty are vitally interwoven with the system of the Church; wherever one of those worthy men is established, he is a centre, and acts as a stimulus for improvement, as far as his means go.

“The Church, in the influence of its fixed principles, is a happy barrier against the wild and turbulent enthusiasm of dissent; in many instances, the various sects have joined its fold, to save themselves from their own extravagances.” Wanting those endowments which procure her so much envy at home, the Church in Canada cannot be accused of *being loyal* from interest; indeed her history *is one of neglect* if not injustice, in the mis-

management of property originally appropriated to her use.\*

Under the old French dominion, the Church of Rome was richly endowed, the Seigneurie of the island of Montreal was alone a noble inheritance. Large funds were appropriated to convents and religious houses, which were enlarged by gifts and benefactions on the part of their members, as well as other persons, and a general tithe afforded a certain income.

The number and magnitude of their buildings sufficiently attest this, and we find the establishment of religious as much an object with the original founders of the colony, as that of civil polity.

Now if we contrast this with the results of British rule in spiritual matters, it will appear as unfavourable as that in political affairs has been advantageous; for although the good King George III. destined a reserve of land, in some measure sufficient for the supply of this want, yet the greater part has been diverted from the ori-

\* *Vide* Extract from Report of Committee of Clergy Reserves, Appendix E.

ginal intention of that monarch, and instead of going to the support of the Church of England, is applied to the uses of the Kirk of Scotland, and other Christian denominations, in the proportion of seven-twelfths of the whole. This arrangement, while it is, perhaps, to be considered the best that under the circumstances of the case could have been made, has left her in a great measure dependent on the individual zeal and liberality of her members.

In education the contrast is as great as in religion. It has been already remarked, that the agitations before the troubles of 1837 were generally found among the superabundant students of the Roman Catholic schools and colleges. In Lower Canada there are twenty schools and colleges for Roman Catholics, but only two Protestant, at Lennoxville and Montreal; the latter, M'Gill college, was endowed by its munificent founder with 10,000*l.* in money, besides lands and buildings. In Upper Canada there are two colleges, endowed respectively with considerable property in land.

As, however, education affects temporal

interests, private means for supplying deficiencies in the matter are not wanting, at the principal towns on a large scale, and at others, in some proportion to their wants.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, has been the great support of the Church in Canada; in the year 1843 alone, upwards of 12,000*l.* was contributed from its funds.

Like everything else in the colony, the progress of the Church is of recent date: in 1786, Dr. Stuart settled at Kingston, in Upper Canada; in 1792, two more clergymen arrived; in 1803 the number only amounted to five, and it was not till 1819, that it had reached ten, in 1833, forty-six; while now the clergy of the Church of England, in the diocese of Toronto, muster 120; of these, 49 are wholly or in part supported by the Venerable Society. In the diocese of Quebec, where of course Roman Catholics predominate, the number is only 70.

It may be truly said, the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; the 120 clergy of the upper province labour among 300 churches, and a population increasing with amazing rapidity. In 1685, it amounted

throughout the entire province only to 10,000; in 1783 it had reached 123,000, while in 1846 it approaches 2,500,000. The average number of emigrants within twenty years, has been 50,000. The eastern district alone\* contains nearly 50,000 members of the Church, and above 15,000 are unaccounted for in point of religious denomination; while in the western, two clergymen may have to extend their exertions over a space of 3,000 square miles; so that, to use the bishop's words, "Nothing happens for months, nay for years, in many of our townships, to remind the people of the existence of a God;" and he concludes that 100 additional clergymen are required to relieve even a portion of their spiritual destitution.

Nevertheless, to the extension of the Church must we look for the development of the perseverance, obedience, and unity

* Lord Grey states the number of Emigrants for ten years to North America to be . . .	687,000
Last year . . . . .	110,000
Canada . . . . .	32,750

Of these 600 were cabin passengers, and 28,000 are settled and doing well. £37,000 was remitted from America on their account to England.—*Vide Appendix F.*

which can alone result in strength and security.

In this, not only the inhabitants of the country and those immediately connected with it are interested, but it affects every Briton; for it must not be forgotten that to the colonies and the mother country the advantages and duties of union are reciprocal, and that as the one derives from the other means to develop her enormous natural resources, so she no less affords a nursery for seamen, and a home for her superabundant population, where prosperity is the necessary result of industry, than a market in which the demands for the efforts of the skill and science displayed in her manufactures increase in the same ratio.

All therefore should unite, not only from motives of principle, but from a consideration of the general interests, to extend the benefits of the teaching of the Church to this magnificent appanage of the British crown; and those, especially, who look forward to it as their future home, should take care to settle, if possible, within reach of her administrations, or at the least, to furnish them-

selves with evidence of their Church-membership, in one of those pastoral letters recommended by the zealous bishop of the Upper Province, forms of which can be procured at the office of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.\*

But while legislative freedom, and rapid increase of population, and progress of commerce and agriculture, attest the consequences of British rule, those who have before possessed this splendid country should not be forgotten.

The peculiar adaptation of the French Canadian character to the early circumstances of the province has already been mentioned: to their perseverance in discovery we owe much; let us joyfully defray the debt by submitting to their prejudices, yielding to their just demands with graceful facility, setting them an example of that energy in which they are deficient, and imitating their contentment, subordination, and national affection; and let the recollection of Hochelaga, its fields, lodges, and for-

\* *Vide* Appendix G.

tifications, ever impress on our minds the consequence of the presence of the white man among the red.

Let us look at the few scattered Indians yet to be found in the province, and their state of comparative degradation and ignorance, and consider how far their condition has been the result of our own criminal supineness, selfishness, and want of faith. It is not enough to compare the Indian of Canada with his brother in the United States—where he has been looked upon as a cumberer of the ground—but with what he was, or still rather what he might have been: his tractability and teachableness are well known; and the success of domestication, in some instances, gives promise of a future abundant harvest to the labourer.

The fulfilment of our duties in these respects may well be anticipated as the means to the full and perfect accomplishment of the high destiny of Canada. United in themselves, its inhabitants, of whatever different elements originally composed, now one, in heart and life, in laws and religion, in affection and interest, animating with healthful



pulsations an internal commerce from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and an external, from the rising to the setting sun; possessing within themselves every material for future prosperity and power, inexhaustible fertility of soil and mineral wealth, if in the lapse of years it shall be found desirable for them to leave the shelter of the maternal roof, will yet continue to experience the blessings resulting from parental rule and affection, in the habits imbibed, the lessons taught, and the example afforded by her from whom their prosperity, if not their entire being has been derived; and while reposing peacefully, every man under his vine and his fig-tree, beneath the folds of that banner whose gorgeous emblazonings they rightfully inherit, shall joyfully respond to the call of the same harmonious sabbath bells, to the same hallowed fanes, to witness the same faith in the same time-honoured words, from the mouth of the same apostolic ministry, which she has ordained for them, and which, like her much-loved formularies, stands pre-eminent for purity, spirituality, moderation, and faithfulness.

To these desired results the following considerations afford additional inducements.

As the power of Canada is concentrating, so that of the United States is becoming diffused.

This, on the one hand, seems to tend to the amalgamation of all British interests in North America under one government; and on the other, the division of the United States into several; probably, three.

Neither of these ideas are new, though of late brought more prominently forward: most persons conversant with North American affairs can remember them both as rife when the question of the North-eastern Boundary was in agitation; the necessity for both seems daily more apparent, whether we look at the political, social, commercial, or religious interests involved, and it may be a question how far the union of the Northern States with Canada might be advantageous to both. Moreover, the rapidity with which communication is now kept up, not only between every part of the province, by rail and steam, but by means of the same agencies with England, may seem to in-

dicare that the time is not far distant when it shall unite the Atlantic to the Pacific, and when, by the prairies or Hudson's Bay, will be found the best route to the settlements on the western coast. Canada has already the advantage in internal communication, by means of her canals. Her facility of access to New Caledonia has been demonstrated by Mackenzie; and we are sure that many of the difficulties which he encountered were consequent only on a first attempt; and he had before shown the practicability of the route to the Arctic Sea by the river which bears his name, and the present expedition under Sir J. Franklin may ascertain the practicability of passage in that direction.

In any case, however, there is nothing to prevent the accomplishment of the ardent wishes of the first colonists, and the passage to the realms and riches of Kathay being opened, (though not indeed in accordance with their anticipations,) by internal advantages of communication, as unrivalled as their fabulous Rio de los Reyes, and Lake Velasco, or even the Strait of Anian.

## APPENDIX.

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### NOTE A, page 2.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH having failed in his attempt to colonize Newfoundland in 1583, through the sickness of his crew and death of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, in 1584, sailed more to the south, and took possession of the country since called Virginia, having letters patent from Queen Elizabeth for that purpose. His fleets made five voyages there between that time and the year 1588; and in 1589 he assigned his rights in the Colony to divers gentlemen and merchants of London.

Maldonado and De Fonte, Spanish voyagers, were fabled to have discovered passages through the Continent; and although the account of the Rio de los Reyes, and the lakes with which it communicated, was manifestly a forgery, the belief in the Strait of Anian intersecting North America originated all the endeavours after a north-west passage, and was not dispelled until the discoveries of Cook, Vancouver, and Mackenzie had demonstrated the continuity of the north-west coast. *Vide* Note on p. 8.

## NOTE B, page 3.

GEORGE BERKELEY, D.D., Dean of Derry, and afterwards Bishop of Cloyne, author of the "Minut Philosopher," in 1725, suggested the conversion of the savage Americans to Christianity by the establishment of a College at Bermuda, and proposed to devote his life to the work on a salary of 100*l.* per annum.

Under promise of support from Sir Robert Walpole, he sailed in 1728 for Bermuda, and landed at Rhode Island, where he remained two years, labouring in the summer as an itinerant preacher, and in the winter preaching every Sunday in the church at Newport; and, disappointed in his hope of assistance from the Government, returned home, leaving large benefactions of land and books to Yale and Havard Colleges. His memory is revered in America above that of all other Englishmen, and with justice for his exertions in its behalf were most laborious and self-denying. His biographer records that "just before his departure for America, Queen Caroline endeavoured to stagger his resolution by the offer of an English mitre, but, in reply, he assured her Majesty that he chose rather to be President of St. Paul's College (Bermuda) than Primate of all England."

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## NOTE C, page 28.

THIS word, in its appropriate meaning, denotes lands formed by a long, continual and gradual alluvion of a river. Such lands are universally formed in rivers conveying slime, whenever sufficient space is furnished for their reception, and where falls, straight points of land, or any other causes, check the current; on the contrary, whenever the current is uniform, the water at all times pure, or the banks high and sufficiently near each other, and sufficiently firm merely to yield a passage to the stream, intervals are not and cannot be formed.—*Dwight's Travels.*

Dugald Stewart remarks that this word, borrowed from the phraseology of a camp, *inter vallos spatium*, the space between the palisades, was successively used, first, to express a limited portion of longitudinal extension generally, and afterwards limited portions of time; and adds, “the same word has passed into our language, and it is not a little remarkable, that it is now so exclusively appropriated to time, that, to speak of the interval between two places, would be considered a mode of expression not agreeable to common use.” The application of the word to time, arising from its application to space, is very remarkable in its musical acceptance.

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## NOTE D, pages 73, 83.

“It has been often remarked,” says Buchette, “with great truth, that history becomes deficient in interest in times of peace, and that the annalist finds ample materials for comment in the sanguinary details of war.” He marks the following as among the most important periods of the history of Canada since the war :—

- 1815 Impeachment of Chief-Justice Sewell and Monk by House of Assembly.
- 1816 Impeachment of Judge Foucher by House of Assembly.
- 1818 Commencement of financial difficulties under Government of the Duke of Richmond.
- 1819 Its lamentable termination, by his death, from hydrophobia, which cannot be even alluded to without a tribute, however inadequate, to his extraordinary fortitude and self-control.
- 1820 Government of Lord Dalhousie.
- 1822 Union of Provinces proposed to Imperial Parliament.
- 1827 Dissolution of House of Assembly and prorogation of Legislature in consequence of the election of Mr. Papineau as Speaker of the Lower House.
- 1828 Reference of the affairs of Canada to a Committee of the House of Commons, and departure of Lord Dalhousie.

Subjoined is a list of Governors, &c. of both Provinces.

## GOVERNORS OF CANADA.

- 1663 Sieur de Mézy.
- 1665 Sieur de Courcelles.
- 1672 Sieur de Frontinac.
- 1682 Sieur de la Barre.
- 1685 Marquise de Nonville.
- 1689 Sieur de Frontenac.
- 1699 Chevalier de Callières.
- 1703 Marquise de Vaudreuil.
- 1726 Marquise de Beauharnois.
- 1747 Comte de la Galissionère.
- 1749 Sieur de la Jonquière.

- 1752 Marquise de Quesne de Menneville.)  
 1755 Sieur de Vaudreuil de Cavagnal.  
 1765 James Murray.  
 1766 Paulus Emilius Irving (President).  
 — General Guy Carleton.  
 1770 Hector de Cramahé (President).  
 1774 General Guy Carleton.  
 1778 Frederick Haldimand.  
 — Henry Hamilton.  
 — Henry Hope.  
 — Lord Dorchester (Sir Guy Carleton).  
 1791 Colonel Clarke.  
 1793 Lord Dorchester.  
 1796 Robert Prescott.  
 1799 Sir R. S. Milnes, Bart.  
 1805 Hon. Thomas Dunn (President).  
 1807 Sir J. H. Craig, K.B.  
 1811 Hon. Thomas Dunn (President).  
 — Sir George Prevost.  
 1815 Sir G. Drummond, G.C.B.  
 1816 John Wilson (Administrator).  
 — Sir J. C. Sherbrooke.  
 1818 Duke of Richmond.  
 1819 Hon. James Monk (President).  
 1820 Sir Peregrine Maitland.  
 — Earl Dalhousie, G.C.B.  
 1824 Sir F. N. Burton.  
 1825 Earl Dalhousie.  
 1828 Sir James Kempt, G.C.B.  
 1830 Lord Aylmer.  
 1835 Earl of Gosford.  
 1838 Major-Gen. Sir John Colborne.  
 — Earl of Durham (six months).  
 — Major-Gen. Sir John Colborne.  
 1839 Rt. Hon. P. Thomson (afterwards Lord Sydenham).

## PROVINCES UNITED.

- 1841 Lord Sydenham.  
 — Major-Gen. Sir R. Jackson.  
 1842 Sir Charles Bagot.  
 1843 Sir Charles (afterwards Baron) Metcalfe.  
 1845 Earl Cathcart.  
 1847 Earl of Elgin and Kincardine.



## LIEUT.-GOVERNORS OF UPPER CANADA.

- 1792 Colonel Simcoe.  
 1796 Hon. Peter Russell (President).  
 1799 Lieut.-Gen. Peter Hunter.  
 1805 Hon. A. Grant (President).  
 1806 Francis Gore.  
 1811 Major-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock (President).  
 1812 Major-Gen. Sir R. H. Sheaffe, Bart. (President).  
 1813 Major-Gen. F. Baron de Bottenberg (President).  
 — Lieut.-Gen. Sir Gordon Drummond, K.C.B.  
 1815 Lieut.-Gen. Sir George Murray, Bart.  
 — Major-Gen. Sir F. P. Robinson, K.C.B.  
 — Francis Gore.  
 1817 Hon. Samuel Smith (Administrator).  
 1818 Major-Gen. Sir Peregrine Maitland.  
 1820 Hon. Samuel Smith (Administrator).  
 — Major-Gen. Sir Peregrine Maitland.  
 1828 Major-Gen. Sir John Colborne.  
 1836 Sir F. B. Head.  
 1838 Major-Gen. Sir G. Arthur.

## NOTE E, page 231.

Report of Committee on Petition of the Church  
 Society of the Diocese of Toronto, respecting  
 "An Act to provide for the Sale of the Clergy  
 Reserves, &c."

"Your Committee cannot but consider that, at the time these lands were originally set apart for the support of religion, and the maintenance of public worship, it was thereby intended to create an adequate fund to form a permanent endowment for those important objects.

"And when it is further borne in mind, that the members of the Church of England, inhabiting the

state of New York, are at this day enabled to erect their churches, and station their Missionaries in every section of that extensive country, by the aid of funds provided by the pious care of a British monarch, when that country was a British colony ; that the numerous Dutch population of the same state are supplied with Pastors, from ample funds provided also at an early day by the care of the government, and that in both these cases the foundation of the endowment was a grant of land, insignificant in extent and value at the time it was made, compared with the Clergy Reserves set apart in this Colony by His late Majesty King George the Third, but which grants being scrupulously preserved and respected by succeeding governments, now yield most munificent resources for the support of religion :

“ When your Committee also take into consideration, that our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects of Lower Canada are enjoying, at this day, the most ample endowments for their churches and colleges, arising from early grants of land, which, if alienated at the value they once bore, would have afforded but a nominal provision, wholly inadequate to the wants of the passing hour, they feel strongly the impolicy of the provisions of the act to which they have referred, and the justice of the claims set forth by the petitioners. Besides, it is stated in the petition of the Church Society, that ‘the petitioners have observed with great regret, that, under the system which has been adopted for the sale of the Clergy reserves, and from the great deductions made from

the proceeds, for the expense of inspection and management, their share of the fund which has been appropriated by the legislature to the religious instruction of the people, is likely to be in a great measure consumed in charges which to them appear unnecessary, and to so great an extent, that they are apprehensive that it will yield little more than a nominal provision for the support of their Church.' To this portion of the petition your Committee have devoted a good deal of attention, and it appears to them that a very large and unnecessary degree of expense has been incurred in the manner pointed out by the petitioners.

“ By certain public returns made by the Commissioner of crown lands, and by the Surveyor General, and laid before the legislature, in compliance with an address of the 9th of October, 1843, it appears that the sums which are realised from the sales of the Reserves are, in a great measure, sunk in the expense of management, and in defraying the general charges of the Land Granting Department.

“ Your Committee find that, in addition to a deduction of five per cent. out of all monies received by the district agents, and besides the charge of remunerating a large number of Inspectors of Clergy Reserves, who have been appointed to be paid by the day at a rate not specified in the returns; the proceeds of these lands are also charged by an order of the government, made in August, 1841, with forty per cent. of the expense of the crown land department up to the time of that return. It appears that

in Lower Canada there had been no sales of Clergy Reserves since the 1st January, 1838, and that, since the union of the provinces, not more than about 1,150*l.* had been received on account of the funds, while 609*l.*, or more than one-half of the whole amount received, had been charged against it as disbursed for expenses.

“In the first half of the year 1843, the whole monies collected in Lower Canada seem not to have exceeded 75*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, while the disbursements charged against the fund are 431*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

“In Upper Canada it appears, by the same documents, that the sales of Reserves had been few for some time previously, though large sums had been received on account of previous sales.

“In the year 1842, the collections amounted to 18,000*l.*, and the disbursements to 5,196*l.*

“For the year 1843, the amount collected up to the 1st of July is stated at about 7,000*l.*, and the charges at 1,763*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*; and while so large a sum as that above mentioned has been charged against the fund for disbursements, there appears to have been only a sale of 200 acres effected within that period, at the price of 90*l.*

“From the information above stated, it appears to your Committee that there is really no proportion or connexion whatever between the service rendered to the fund, and the charges which are imposed upon it.”

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## NOTE F, page 234.

## STATISTICS OF EMIGRATION TO CANADA, 1846.

NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS ..... 32,753

	Cabin.	Steerage.
From England .....	273	8,890
Ireland .....	207	20,842
Scotland .....	120	1,525
Germany .....	0	896
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	600	32,153
	<hr/>	<hr/>

*Increase of Steerage Passengers over 1845.*

England .....	379	Assisted by Parish.		
Ireland .....	6,782		England.....	245
Germany .....	896		Ireland .....	1,013
	<hr/>			
	8,057			
Decrease in Scotland .....	486		Total .....	1,258
	<hr/>			<hr/>
Total .....	7,571			
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*Total Emigration to Canada West.*

By St. Lawrence .....	24,655
United States .....	2,864
	<hr/>
	27,519
To United States .....	7,000
Average increase of population .....	28,000

*Cost to Government for Assistance in Colony.*

	£	s.	d.
Transport to location.....	7,207	7	10
Provision .....	782	19	7
Medical .....	551	16	3
Contingencies .....	265	0	0
	£8,807	3	8
Deduct emigrant's tax.....	6,729	10	10
Total .....	£2,077	12	10

*Comparative Statement of number of Emigrants at the Port of Quebec from the year 1829 inclusive.*

	5 Years. 1829 to 1833.	5 Years. 1834 to 1838.	5 Years. 1839 to 1843.	1844.	1845.	1846.
From England...	43,386	28,624	30,813	7,698	8,833	9,163
Ireland ...	102,264	54,898	74,981	9,993	14,208	21,049
Scotland...	20,143	10,998	16,289	2,234	2,174	1,645
Germany..	...	...	...	...	...	896
	165,793	94,520	122,083	19,925	25,215	32,753

*Abstract of Trades and Callings of Emigrants arrived at Quebec and Montreal, 1846.*

Mechanics and tradesmen .....	715	} 12,366
Farmers and farm labourers .....	4,831	
Common labourers.....	6,733	
Servants (male) .....	87	
Ditto (female) .....	379	

